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INSIDE

WORLD



An Algerian military transport plane crashes, killing 77 people.

► PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE



Any kid who ever tap-danced can only dream of being as beloved as Shirley Temple.

► PAGE 20



Scant details about plans for COP and Palms Resort

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Officials of the South Korean-based investment giant E Land met behind closed doors with Gov. Eloy S. Inos yesterday morning about their ongoing renovation of Coral Ocean Point and plans for reopening the former Palms Resort Saipan. E Land later cancelled a press briefing that was supposed to happen after their meeting with the governor on Capital Hill.

CUC deputy chief Fong quits post

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. lost one of its top management officials with the resignation of deputy director Wallon Young Fong.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yes-

terday that Fong last reported for work last month, the end of his employment contract.

While praising the former executive's invaluable contribution to the stability of power generation on island, Fletcher does not expect Fong's departure to impact the agency's current operation.

See CUC on Page 4

Nekaifes: Fitial told me to foil FBI agents

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Jermaine Joseph Wabol Nekaifes, a former police captain who used to serve as an escort/driver of then-governor Benigno

R. Fitial, testified yesterday that Fitial instructed him not to allow Federal Bureau of Investigation agents from approaching and serving a penal summons to former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham at the Saipan In-

See NEKAIFES on Page 4

» **Judge Govendo warns Buckingham's counsel with contempt**

This comes at a time when some elected officials have expressed doubts about E Land's ability to move forward with what the investor group earlier claimed is an initial \$4 million renovation of Coral Ocean Point as part of an estimated \$40 million,

See SCANT on Page 4

Seong Min Kang, chief executive officer and president of E Land's Suwaso Corp./Micronesian Resort Inc., talks to reporters on Capital Hill yesterday morning, while MRI chief operating officer Taeho Kim looks on, after their closed-door meeting with Gov. Eloy S. Inos for an update about their plans for Coral Ocean Point and the former The Palms Resort.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



NEW PUBLIC MARKET

A construction worker is seen yesterday through a large opening in an expanded building that will soon host the new Garapan Public Market by the Garapan Fishing Base. The structure used to be a fish market building. The government awarded a contract to Success International Corp. last year for the renovation project that will provide a permanent public market site for vendors to sell locally grown produce, as well as arts and crafts.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

**CDA to launch microloan guaranteed program. PAGE 3
Lawmakers caution against \$120M bond float. PAGE 5**



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Local

Remias ending Saipan tour of duty



MARK RABAGO

Capt. Leonard V. "Len" Remias, commodore of the Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron Three, receives "Service Above Self" Rotary T-shirts from Rotary Club of Saipan president Laila Y. Boyer at the mess hall of the USNS Bobo Monday.

Capt. Leonard V. "Len" Remias will be stepping down as commodore of the Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron Three next month.

"This is a one-year unaccompanied tour that is typical for most of the Navy who has embarked on the flagship, which is the USNS Bobo. So I'm approaching the end of my tour. It's been about seven months since I've been in command of this Maritime Prepositioning [Ships] Squadron. We will deploy in March for three months in the Western Pacific supporting maritime preposition force exercises in the Philippines and Korea and that will bring me to the conclusion of my tour of duty," he said during Monday's Rotary Club of Saipan tour of the USNS Wheeler and USNS Bobo.

Remias said he will not forget his short but sweet stint as commander of MPS 3.

"The most memorable is the people, the friendships, as well as the environment. You can't beat the clear aquamarine water and the beautiful weather, the all year-round 80-86 degree weather. That would be the most memorable."

Remias also noted his squadron's burgeoning relationship with the local community, especially the Rotary Club. He hopes his successor will continue and cultivate that relationship.

"[I will] recommend to my successor to continue our partnership with Rotary. Like the Navy—honor, courage, commitment—I believe the Rotary's motto—service above self—is also aligned with what we us sailors want to do with respect

to community relations and building partnerships in the region and no matter where we're at all over the world."

Remias said he is already looking forward to the maritime preposition force exercises in March because it would involve his flagship, the USNS Bobo, docking at the former U.S. naval base in Subic Bay in the Philippines.

A full-blooded Filipino whose parents hail from the Sampaloc district of Manila in the Philippines, Remias said this would be the first time he will be visiting his parents' homeland.

Remias assumed his current duties as commander, Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron Three, in July 2013.

Hailing from Hampton Roads, Va., Remias graduated from Old Dominion University with a bachelor in Electrical Engineering Technology and was commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program. He attended the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif., and received a master of science degree in Computer Science, and completed the Naval Postgraduate School Anti-Submarine Warfare certificate program.

At sea, Remias served in both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets including: USS Coontz (DDG 40), USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51), USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58), USS Russell (DDG 59) and USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75). Afloat staff duty included Flag Material and Readiness Officer in Commander Cruiser Destroyer

Group 12/Commander Carrier Strike Group 14 embarked in USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65). During these operational tours, he completed five deployments to the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Arabian Gulf, and Western Pacific/Indian Ocean.

An anti-submarine warfare specialist, Remias served as director, Undersea Warfare in Surface Warfare Development Group, program manager for the Ship Anti-Submarine Warfare and Mine Warfare Readiness Effectiveness Measuring programs for the Chief of Naval Operations, special assistant to the commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet for Anti-Submarine Warfare and Warfighting Assessment and Readiness. Remias also served as officer-in-charge and assistant chief of staff for Requirements, Doctrine and Experimentation in Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command Detachment Norfolk. He commanded Provincial Reconstruction Team Kunar and the Forward Operating Base Camp Wright in Kunar Province, Afghanistan. He subsequently served as advisor to the Commander, International Security Assistance Force, and U.S. Forces Afghanistan in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Remias' personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and various service medals and unit awards. (Mark Rabago)

Govt to launch microloan guaranteed program

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Small entrepreneurs who are looking for capital may soon benefit from a new initiative, once details are finalized.

The Commonwealth Development Authority has unveiled a plan to create a "Microloan Guaranteed Program," which will serve as a catalyst for larger loans offered by the federally-funded State Small Business Credit Development Initiative program.

CDA loan manager Oscar Camacho said the microloan guaranteed program could be implemented fast, effectively, and will have an impact on the CNMI business environment.

Under the program, CDA will work with commercial banks and will provide 80 percent guarantee on short-term loans specific to small businesses, fishermen, and farmers, among other borrowers.

Based on the initial proposal presented to the board Tuesday, CDA plans to allocate \$750,000 for the program and aims to initially guarantee 50 loans in the following disbursements: 12 loans amounting each to \$35,000 or less; 13 loans amounting each to \$15,000 or less; and 25 loans each amounting to \$10,000 or

less. Recommended payment term is up to two years.

Camacho described the program as a "bridge" to better the relationship between banks and borrowers. The objective, he said, is to graduate the borrowers in two years and eventually enter into the SBCDI, which is also a bank-driven program.

Based on Camacho's initial recommendation, the maximum "microloan" is \$25,000 for 1- or 2-year term. Approval of the \$25,000 loan application will entirely depend on the CDA executive director while anything beyond that amount would require the board's sanction.

"This is simply a loan guarantee but which is limited to microloans. The idea is: rather than CDA giving a direct loan [to the borrower], we could utilize the funds by depositing them similar to what we're doing in the past," said Camacho, adding that rather than just a signature on a guarantee, CDA would now deposit the funds under the proposed microloan guaranteed program.

It was reported that, as of this week, banks are receptive to the idea and have actually recommended increasing the maximum microloan from \$25,000 to \$35,000.

According to CDA board chair Diego Songao, board members

came to a consensus to support the new initiative that, they agreed, would support the success of the SBCDI program.

Camacho earlier reported that, as this week, only four loans were being processed under SBCDI.

The board put off approving the new program, pending some changes to the proposal.

Board member Marcie Tomokane was hesitant about the idea of providing short-term notes to business borrowers. For borrowers like farmers and fishermen, she believes a two-year term is unrealistic.

Tomokane, along with director Glenn Quitugua, was also cautious against the proposed \$750,000 allocation for the program. The two believe that the start-up amount could perhaps be lowered to \$600,000.

Tomokane also wants to see a final set of rules, guarantee provisions, requirements, and other information related to the new program.

"If this is for microloans, I don't think it's going to work. I don't think anyone out there or a fisherman can afford a two-year term. And I don't know if the banks would allow a 2-year guarantee on a 4-year loan, especially when it is a signature loan. For a startup, it takes five years to prove your business,"

Tomokane reminded fellow board members.

CDA executive director Manuel Sablan believes that buying microloans from banks is a better option for the agency.

"Why don't we ask the banks and let CDA buy the loans? Let's explore that possibility! When you look at our financial statements, you will see a very limited return on our money. We have \$1 million sitting in the bank and giving us less than 1 percent interest. That, for me, doesn't make sense," Sablan said.

Camacho explained that once the loan guarantee ex-

pires in two years, banks can extend the terms for borrowers if they see fit. "If banks feel comfortable, they can enroll them to SBCDI. And that's the push [of this microloan guaranteed program]," he said.

He added that borrowers will be subject to CDA regulations.

Songao concluded Tuesday that since the board has reached

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a consensus to support the program, final details must be presented at the next meeting in the hopes that the initiative will take effect next month.

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Two men arrested on separate charges

An intoxicated man was arrested for allegedly knocking on his ex-girlfriend's door late at night and disturbing her while another man was arrested for allegedly slamming another man into a wall.

Ricardo Villagomez, 19, was arrested for disturbing the peace, criminal mischief, and minor consuming liquor. Fritz Jacob Passi, 31, was arrested for disturbing the peace and assault and battery.

Cash bail was set at \$2,500 for each suspect.

Police detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that a police officer responded to Concepcion's Apartment along Filooris Avenue in Garapan Friday last week at 10:28pm after receiving a disturbance report.

Kintoki said that officer Christopher Santos came upon a man lying in front of the apartment door who was intoxicated. Santos questioned the man, later identified as Villagomez, who told the officer he was 19.

A woman then opened the door and told Santos that Villagomez is her ex-boyfriend. Villagomez had come to the apartment, allegedly disturbing her and her children. She then told Santos that the screen door had been damaged and part of it had been pried open. Villagomez was then arrested.

In Passi's case, Kintoki stated that police responded to a place east of Martha's Store in Garapan on Saturday at 7:40am after receiving a call

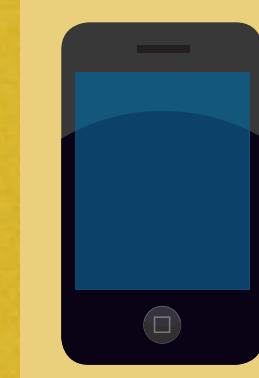
about a disturbance.

When police officer Joseph Magofna got there, he saw a man sitting on top of Passi who was pinned to the ground. The man told Magofna that Passi had attacked him and he was just trying to hold him down.

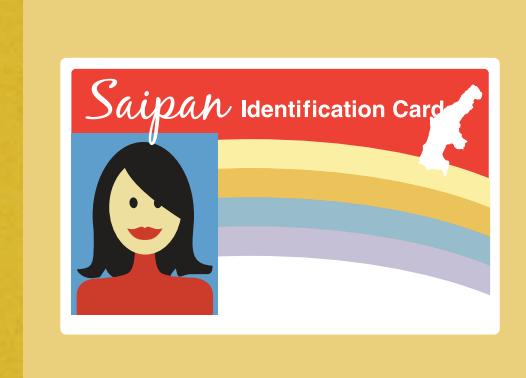
The man said he had walked out of his house to drop his wife to work when Passi opened the gate, ran toward him, and tried to punch him. Passi then allegedly pinned the man to the wall. The man managed to hit Passi back.

The man sustained back injuries with scratches on his back, shoulders, arms and lower body. Passi sustained cuts on his right eyebrow and scrapes on his face. (Jayson Camacho)

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Sentence of former DJ Mettao reduced

From the two-year prison term he earlier imposed on Aziz Peter Mettao for setting fire to a car owned by Power 99 Studio, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has reduced the former disc jockey's sentence to one year and eight months prison.

Wiseman made the reduction in order for Mettao to arrive on Saipan upon completion of his federal sentence without having

to serve additional time in the CNMI since the sentences are to be concurrent.

Assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg, counsel for the defendant, made the oral motion for a reduction of sentence at a hearing on Monday.

Petersburg told the court that his client is no longer in the CNMI and was taken into federal custody to serve his federal sentence.

In granting the motion, Wiseman added an additional probation condition of 500 hours of community service.

The judge ordered Mettao to report to the CNMI Office of Adult Probation within 30 days upon his release from federal prison.

Last Dec. 18, Wiseman ordered that the two-year prison term he imposed on Mettao shall run concurrently with Mettao's two-year

prison sentence in federal court over the same incident.

The judge said the sentence, however, shall be tentative unless the defendant starts serving his jail time in federal prison before the sentencing hearing in Superior Court.

Wiseman made the sentence tentative because he wants to make sure that the defendant will serve the jail term concurrent or within his two-year prison sentence in federal court. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

CUC

From Page 1

"I do not anticipate Wallon's leaving to impact operations. Under his leadership, CUC has been able to rebuild its power supplies, which currently enjoys excess supply. While he will be missed, we all wish Wallon and his family well in his new posting," said Fletcher.

Fong's contract term ended in January and it was learned that

he had accepted another job.

"Wallon will be greatly missed for his work in repairing, stabilizing, upgrading, and optimizing CUC's power generation systems. His direct contributions ushered in reliable power generation to the people of CNMI," according to Fletcher.

He added that Fong has been gracious enough to stay in contact with operational personnel on any problems.

Saipan Tribune learned that Fong has been serving the is-

land's utility agency for five years. He was hired early in 2009 as deputy director for power division.

Fletcher concedes that replacing Fong's vast knowledge will be difficult, which speaks to the high demand for his talents.

He revealed that CUC is examining a couple of different approaches such as recruitment for one position and/or the hiring of targeted electrical engineering specialties, one for power-generation and a second for transmission and

distribution.

Thankfully, he said, CUC has on board a solid power generation manager who was hired in 2012. In addition, the power transmission and distribution section is led by incumbent manager Gary Camacho.

CUC operates three power plants, which are all oil-fueled diesel engines. CUC electric customers currently get their power from Power Plant 1.

Power Plant 2, meantime, is being overhauled, while Power Plant 4 is on standby.

asked him if he is there to pick up the Buckinghams and he said yes.

Ogumoro told Nekaifes that he was there to assist the escort of the Buckinghams to the airport.

Nekaifes said he transported the couple to the airport. Ogumoro and some police officers followed to the airport.

Upon arrival at the airport, Nekaifes said he saw Tina Sablan close to the snack bar near the entrance to the terminal.

Nekaifes said that, while inside the car, he handed a document that Fitial asked Buckingham to sign. Nekaifes said he was not aware what the document was about because he did not read it.

At the airport, Nekaifes said that Tina Sablan wanted to speak with Buckingham but police officers blocked her.

Nekaifes said the officers blocked Sablan because Ogumoro instructed them to escort the Buckinghams to the airport without interruption. He said he heard Ogumoro giving instructions to the officers to prevent anyone from approaching Buckingham.

Nekaifes said he, Ogumoro, and other CPA officials later brought the Buckinghams to the VIP Lounge of the airport.

Nekaifes said he was with Buckingham, Ogumoro, and other CPA officials when FBI agent Park and another agent came in.

He said Ogumoro approached Park and the other agent. After a brief conversation with the agents, Ogumoro approached and told Buckingham that he will be served with summons.

Nekaifes said Ogumoro told Buckingham that he was given assurance by the FBI agents that he [Buckingham] will not be stopped from departing the CNMI. Park then served the penal summons to Buckingham,

Govendo became upset with Pierce's comments or statements while cross-examining the government's witness, Office of the Public Auditor investigator Juanette David-Atalig, and for using words such as "trick" when referring to how investigators obtained the penal summons from the Superior Court.

Govendo told Pierce that if he makes further comment like what he did on Tuesday when he expressed belief that he (Govendo) was siding with the OPA, he should file a motion to recuse him from the case.

Pierce replied that he did not say that statement.

"Mr. Pierce, you got the warning!" the judge said. "It's not helping your client!"

On Tuesday's hearing, Govendo sustained an objection by OPA legal counsel George Hasselback. Pierce made a comment that it appears that Govendo is siding. The judge immediately responded that he is not siding.

After OPA investigator David-Atalig completed her testimony yesterday, Hasselback called Nekaifes to the witness stand.

Nekaifes said Fitial stated that Buckingham wants to leave the CNMI without being interviewed by the press.

Upon Fitial's alleged instruction, he said he left his house in Garapan on Aug. 4, 2012, at 3am, and he proceeded to Aquarius Hotel, where he saw Department of Public Safety then-deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro and some police officers.

Nekaifes said Ogumoro

Governor off to DC for NGA, other meetings

Gov. Eloy S. Inos will be off to Washington, D.C. for one-and-a-half weeks starting on Tuesday to attend the 2014 National Governors Association's Winter Meeting and other meetings that impact the CNMI and other territories.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, who will be accompanying the governor in this trip, said Inos will also be attending a meeting of the Pacific Basin Development Council, which the CNMI is a member of.

PBDC members share mutual concerns about the applicability of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. Among the specific issues is the Medicaid cap. Under the ACA, more funds were made available to increase the cap. However, because of the matching require-

ment, Guam and the CNMI do not necessarily have enough fiscal resources to provide matching funds in order to avail of the increased cap on Medicaid.

The governor will also be at the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Winter Meeting, as well as at the White House Interagency Group on Insular Affairs Meeting. The IGIA brings together federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of the Interior and governors of insular areas.

Demapan said at the IGIA, the governor is looking to share his concerns about the Affordable Care Act.

If there is an opportunity, the governor may also follow up on the CNMI's request to extend the Commonwealth-only worker program. *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*

SCANT

From Page 1

multi-year investment plan.

Seong Min Kang, chief executive officer and president of E Land's Suwaso Corp./Micronesian Resort Inc., told reporters on Capitol Hill that he shared with the governor their plans for Coral Ocean Point. But Kang, speaking in Korean, declined to elaborate. Coral Ocean Point sits mostly on public land.

Press secretary Angel Demapan later said the E Land officials told the governor that they are now working on the swimming pool and central building at Coral Ocean Point, which they expect to be completed in 60 days.

Accompanying Kang at the meeting with the governor were MRI chief operating officer Taeho Kim, COP operations manager "Dennis" Seo, and COP's Bertha Leon Guerrero.

Kang also told reporters that they shared with the governor E Land's plans for the former The Palms Resort, but declined to give details other than they are still trying to bring in a global brand for this hotel located on the northern part of the island.

The governor's press secretary also later said that E Land told the governor that they are "nearing" the completion of their plan for the former The Palms Resort.

Demapan said E Land expects to begin renovation in the summer. He also said E Land is bringing in a global brand to the hotel. The Palms Resort is on private land.

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) reiterated his and Sen. Pete Reyes' (Ind-Saipan) request yesterday to the Department of Public Lands to look at the track record of E Land before DPL decides to negotiate either with E Land/MRI or the Hong Kong-based Honest Profit Corp. for the lease of a San Antonio public land to develop a new hotel with at least 200 rooms.

"DPL should take into consideration E Land's track record on Saipan. Why do we need to encumber an additional public

land, on prime beach location, if we are not sure they can deliver on their promise to develop it? We are not trying to be unfriendly to them, but they are holding a big chunk of public land and may hold another big chunk at a prime location. Maybe other companies could be given a chance too. If DPL feels they need to do another RFP in San Antonio, then they should never hold back," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio said yesterday they have not decided on the San Antonio lot request for proposal yet. When asked whether DPL plans to cancel the RFP, he said "no."

Rep. Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, separately said the panel will request DPL for some documents related to E Land's public land leases, among other things.

"E Land seems to be moving slow. We understand some of their hotels are on private land, but some are on public land, so that's what we're most concerned about," he added.

In September, E Land broke ground on its initial \$4 million renovation that includes sprucing up the existing 80 rooms, the main building, and swimming pool of Coral Ocean Point.

At the time, Kang said that was "only the beginning. Suwaso Corp.'s majority owner is E Land, through Micronesian Resort Inc.

After the renovation work on existing facilities, E Land has said the next phase is the construction of 200 to 300 new rooms, among other things.

The government is hoping that E Land and other investors will open new or reopen hotels to address the shortage of available hotel rooms, as visitor arrivals to the CNMI have been increasing.

E Land/MRI earlier said it also has plans for its other hotels on Saipan—Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio and the former The Palms Resort in San Roque but the company said it would reveal such plans at a later date.

Lawmakers caution against \$120M bond float

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A new target of \$120 million pension obligation bond to be floated is drawing a lukewarm response this early from lawmakers who are urging the Inos administration and the Commonwealth Development Authority to "proceed with caution." Some said they are more inclined to support the governor's original plan of \$60 million to \$80 million bond float.

This, as the House of Representatives is poised to act this afternoon on a bill amending the pension obligation law or Public Law 18-12 and allow the use of gross receipt taxes as pledge to the debt service, among other things. The new target of \$120 million is still within the "up to \$300 million limit" allowed by the POB law.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said it's not because the CNMI can afford to float a \$120 million bond, that it should proceed with it, considering that the islands are just starting to recover economically and one major factor beyond the CNMI's control can easily weaken the tourism industry once again.

"I would be more comfortable in the numbers between \$80 million and \$120 million. Maybe \$100 million is more reasonable," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*. "It's too short of a period to feel totally comfortable. We don't know if this economic recovery will continue as we'd like to, so we should proceed with caution.

» More inclined to support \$60 million to \$80 million

just so we can keep up with our obligations to the settlement fund."

"So in essence we are just delaying the inevitable of what is owed. We have other obligations like CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] and other outstanding debt, 2007a/b bonds, so we can't afford another bond," he said.

Yumul added that lawmakers' questions about the pension obligation bond were not answered during yesterday's meeting of the House Ways and Means Committee with Finance Secretary Larrissa Larson. Finance briefed lawmakers about the fiscal year 2013 revenues and spending, but members also got a chance to ask about other topics such as the POB and tax amnesty.

Rep. George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said it "all boils down to the sacrifices we are willing to commit in order to pay it back."

"Any obligation floated is and becomes public debt...

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We should be more conservative with the numbers."

Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) separately said "it would not be in the best interest of our people to float a pension obligation bond at this point in time," saying that "it would cost us approximately \$99 million in interest alone should we float it for 15 years

Obviously, less bond floated is good. But will that be sufficient to sustain the retirement fund program? Eventually, at the end, we will have to make sacrifices paying the bond back—sacrifices, including public service. It becomes a matter of priorities," Camacho added.

Rep. Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan) also said the government should not move on with a \$120 million bond float "because when something happens beyond our control, we don't know if we can really afford repayment." "I personally prefer \$60

million to \$70 million because that's the gross receipt tax we're projecting to collect," he said.

Benavente said in the meeting with the Finance secretary,

there remained unanswered questions. For example, if a \$120 million pension obligation bond is floated, "will that pay for the annual minimum guaranteed government payment to the settlement fund until it's exhausted?" or "will the government still set aside \$20 million in the annual budget and take the remaining amount needed like \$7 million for FY

2015, from the POB?"

Sablan, meanwhile, said the House will once again take up a POB law amendment bill this afternoon. It was debated last week but was not acted on.

"We will move on that because that bill is important in the ongoing process. Without that bill, we might not be able to get the best possible deal. The bill would pledge gross revenue tax, as security for repayment. What we need to do, when CDA is ready to present to the administration, everybody could have a chance to share their concerns," he added.

Rep. Mario Taitano's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 18-71 remains on calendar, but another of his bill, HB 18-70, already

passed the House last week to amend the Commonwealth Development Authority Act of 1984 to allow issuance of bonds other than general obligation bonds at a time when the CNMI is preparing to float a pension obligation bond.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the \$120 million target is not a final figure.

The government has been trying to meet its pension obligations such as the annual payment to the settlement fund, the restoration of the 25 percent cut in pension, return of the retirement fund contribution interest, and health and life insurance premium payment while its budget is only \$123.4 million.

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CDA discloses \$7.8M in bank accounts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of last month, the Commonwealth Development Authority had a total of \$7.89 million in the bank.

CDA comptroller Donnie Militante reported to the board of directors that the bank balances are for three specific accounts all handled by the agency.

The operations account has a balance of \$1.2 million as of Jan. 31 this year while the loan accounts has \$1.8 million. The third account, the DBD/CIP (development banking division/capital improvement project), has \$4.84 million.

According to Militante, this \$4.8 million DBD/CIP fund balance includes \$2.16 million in uncommitted CIP funds avail-

able for re-appropriation by the Legislature and \$1.25 million that has already been committed to some CIP projects for three senatorial districts as appropriated by lawmakers in the past five years but which hasn't been moving and are considered as "dormant."

The agency's collections in the first quarter of fiscal year 2014 (October to January) totaled \$365,000. Included in this amount is \$257,000 collected from loans, which is a 12-percent decline compared to the same period last fiscal year, or a drop of around \$31,000.

Militante said the decrease reflects the non-payment of Freedom Air since September 2013. It will be recalled that the airline has filed for bankruptcy, which prevents collection from its current arrears.

Also part of total collection is \$108,000 from lease payments. This amount, Militante disclosed, is a 20-percent increase over the same period last year, equal to about \$18,000.

CDA is a government agency tasked to provide economic loans to private and public sectors for economic development.

'\$700K ready to loan out'

According to Militante, CDA has a \$700,000 balance in its loan account that could be provided to eligible borrowers. This amount is projected to increase to \$1 million at the end of the fiscal year, assuming this is not loaned out.

"Aside from this, we're also expecting to collect from Arctic Circle to augment our loanable funds," said Militante, alluding to the airline company's

\$600,000 loan.

In an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune*, CDA director Manuel Sablan had said that parties are now finalizing the details of a repayment scheme for this \$600,000 Arctic Circle loan.

Cash-flow projection

Militante also notified the board of the status of the agency's cash flows. It was revealed that on the operations side, CDA projects a net cash flow of \$105,000 up to the end of fiscal year 2014 in September.

On the loan side, the agency projects a net of \$301,000 for the 12-month period, which could be added to the agency's loan balances.

For CIP monies, Militante forecasts to have \$358,999 in fiscal year 2014, an amount that he said would increase as a re-

sult of the payments received from Commonwealth Ports Authority loans.

"Even though we projected a shortfall of \$105,000 [for fiscal year 2014], I am confident that we can cover that because we always spend less than our budgeted expenses, as we always do every year," according to Militante.

Restricted funds

CDA also disclosed the following figures under the "restricted" funds, which are reserved for specific purposes and programs.

For the DBD/CIP projects, restricted funds amount to \$2.1 million; for loan, obligated is at \$786,000 after deducting the \$1 million set aside for housing; and \$27,000 reserved for the Brownfield program.

CDA board chair Diego Songao disclosed during Tuesday's board meeting that the agency has been wanting to tap the Brownfield funds for the lon-

gest time, to no avail.

"We've been inquiring this amount for so long as to how we can make use of this money. This has been in our financial statements [for years] and we have not received any response from the administration how this fund will be used or make use of it," said Songao.

CDA management officials later explained that, after an inquiry with the Division of Environmental Quality, it was learned that the "Brownfield funds" is strictly intended for the promotion and marketing of the program of the agency, which may include the improvement of its website.

SILC and OVR recognize leaders

During their first general membership meeting for fiscal year 2014 on Feb. 6, 2014, at the Pacific Islands Club, officers and members of the CNMI State-wide Independent Living Council, together with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, held a brief ceremony to recognize and extend sincere appreciation to former SILC officers Stephen Dutro (chairperson) and Jimmy G. Sablan (secretary) for having served with distinction on the SILC for two full terms, or six years. Both Dutro and Sablan thanked the SILC membership for the honor and privilege to have been part of a dynamic organization and urged the SILC to continue their advocacy efforts of promoting and advancing the independent living agenda of people with disabilities in the CNMI so that they are fully included and integrated in all aspects of life.

Dutro is currently employed at Hawaiian Rock Products, while Sablan is program manager for the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

The 1992 amendments to the Rehabilitation Act greatly expanded the role and responsibilities of the statewide independent living councils, in effect making them full partners with vocational rehabilitation in the independent living process. Primary among the new responsibilities of the councils is collaborating with the state vocational rehabilitation agency to develop the state independent living plan—including determining use of independent living funds and monitoring, reviewing, and evaluating implementation of this state plan.

SILC officers for fiscal year 2014 include Consolacion "Connie" Atalig, chairperson; Gernadine Camacho, vice chairperson; Emeterio Fitial, secretary; and Lydia Igitol, executive director of the Center for Living Independently.

The mission of OVR is to increase employment and promote independence among eligible individuals with disabilities throughout the CNMI. It is headed by Arlene Kay A. Yamagata, M.S., C.R.C. (OVR)



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

AG CANDIDATE

Former CNMI Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan, center, poses for a group photo with his campaign team and some of his supporters on Saturday after announcing he's running for CNMI attorney general, now an elected position, in the November race.

Job Vacancy Announcement

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY INC.

(01) BUILDING MAINTENANCE

- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks.
- Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing, security systems, solar panel maintenance and construction with solar panel inverter experience.
- Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes a lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and partitions.
- Maintain and repair various equipments.
- Prefer skills training in electrical, plumbing and building trades areas.
- Extensive work experience with hemodialysis, maintenance, plumbing and construction is required.
- High school graduate or equivalent.
- Must have a valid driver's license.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

(01) HEALTHCARE CLINIC SYSTEM MANAGER

- A minimum of two to four years of work-related skill, knowledge, or experience.
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent.
- Maintains specialized computer programs relating to health care operations (medical billing, patient records, scheduler).
- Maintain all of companies computer systems including computer hardware, computer software, computer network and advance server skills.
- Oversees medical billing department utilizing specialize computer software.
- Oversees administrative areas and designs, develop and maintain a paperless computer system.
- Building maintenance repair, electronic record and prescription with meaningful use in compliance with medical and Medicaid standards.

(01) CLINIC/YARD MAINTENANCE

- Preferred skills and experience
- Building Construction/Renovation experience.
- Experience solar maintenance pv models
- Must have a valid CNMI drivers license
- Must be flexible with time schedule

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up application at Saipan Health Clinic in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be held on 02/21/2014 at 04:00 pm. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2901 ext. 124.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Housekeeping Cleaner
Responsible for cleaning and tidying in the hotel bedrooms. Do domestic required including changing and replenishing the bathroom. Check the general condition of the room and notify the housekeeping supervisor of any malfunction or damage. Responsible for the linen and equipment supplied for his/her use ensuring that brand standard and procedures are applied. Clean hallways, lobbies, lounge, restrooms, corridors, elevators and stairways as assigned. Clean rugs, carpets, upholstered furniture and draperies using vacuum cleaner and shampoos. Dust and polish furniture and equipment.
Qualification Requirement: High School graduate or equivalent. 6 months to 1 year prior cleaning experience in a large building such as hotel or hospital is highly preferred. Must be able to lift and carry up to 30 pounds without any assistance. Attention to detail working carefully within the minimum time is essential. Must have good stamina and can stand on feet throughout work duty. Can work a flexible schedule including back-to-back, weekends, nights and holidays.

(2) Laundry Worker
Responsible for keeping linens in pristine condition such as towels, wash cloths and sheets. Also responsible for laundry and dry cleaning services to hotel guests.
Qualification Requirement: High School graduate or equivalent. 6 months to 1 year work experience as a laundry worker is preferred. Must be able to lift and push up to 30 pounds without any assistance. Must be able to stand on feet for long periods of time. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights and holidays.

(2) Waiter/Waitress
Take orders from customers and in-house guests at Resort's restaurant outlets. Serve food and beverage to patrons at tables. Check with customers to ensure that they are enjoying their meals and take appropriate action to correct any problems. Clear tables or counters after patrons have finished dining.
Qualification Requirement: High School graduate or equivalent. 3 to 6 months work experience as wait staff is preferred. Must have strong customer service skills. Must be able to work flexible schedule including week-ends, nights and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained from Fiesta Resort & Spa's security office located in the South Wing. Please submit your applications to our security office by the dead-line February 14, 2014 to be considered.

**JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
FAX: (670) 234-7753**

Attorney for Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**GILDA E. ESCAMILLA-JALMAS) FCD DI
Petitioner.) CIVIL
versus) ACTION
JOSE JALMAS JR.,) NO. 13-0462
Respondent)
) SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.
YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Imwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 26th day of September
2013.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Hyatt donates \$12K to Make-A-Wish Foundation

GPD chief says they have leads on bank robbery

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—Guam Police Department chief Fred Bordallo says that they have some good leads on the recent Bank of Guam robbery and speculates that the robbery is drug related.

“We have pretty good information...and coordinating some of the information coming down,” said Bordallo.

The GPD chief said that even though these criminals were well covered by long-sleeved shirts, gloves and masks, these types of criminals are usually caught after they talk to or brag to people about their crime.

“They have a place to go to and there’s people that they talk [to] and as they talk we discover all of a sudden who the person is and information comes to us from that. Crime Stoppers offers a reward for any anonymous tip that leads to the apprehension of these individuals,” said Bordallo.

When asked if he thinks the bank robbery was tied to drugs, he said: “I would speculate, yes. There’s always going to be a connection to drugs in choosing a bank with the logic they use to target a Bank of Guam on a midday a few minutes after the bank opens. So I wouldn’t be surprised if sooner or later when we look at some of the perpetrators coming up on the names of the potential leads that we have that there’s that connection to drug use or individual’s who are responsible for drug distribution on our island,” said Bordallo.



From left to right, Executive Chef Gabriele Colombo, Director of Food and Beverage Tyrell Pauling, Marketing Communications Manager Luis Villagomez, General Manager Nick Nishikawa, MAWF Board Member and Director of Human Resources Josephine Mesta, Incoming MAWF Board Member Kanae Quinn, Director of Rooms Rosalyn Quintanilla and MAWF Office Manager / Wish Coordinator Kaleena Aguon

The Make-A-Wish Foundation’s mission to grant the wishes of children with grave or life-threatening conditions was recently boosted with a donation of \$12,000 from the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa and executives presented the check to Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam/CNMI executive director Vicente P. Camacho Monday afternoon.

The donation will primarily go toward granting wishes of children in the Northern Marianas, followed by additional wishes in Guam.

One child from Saipan, Chance Takahashi, has already benefited from Hyatt’s donation. His wish was “to go on a shopping spree.”

Camacho said they were able to grant Takahashi’s wish on Feb. 6, 2014, in San Diego, Calif., where he is currently

being treated for rheumatic heart disease. The expense of Takahashi’s wish is estimated at \$3,500.

Another shopping spree wish will be granted to Argentine Perez on Feb. 22, 2014. Perez will be traveling to Manila to shop at the famous Mall of Asia and the cost of the wish is estimated at \$3,500.

The remaining \$5,000 from the Hyatt donation will go toward a future wish yet to be decided but it will be granted

before August 2014.

Nishikawa said, “Our hotel’s passion is to make a difference in the lives of those we touch, especially within the local community. We are proud to do just that through Make-A-Wish Foundation.”

Hyatt is a major supporter of granting wishes. Aside from monetary contributions, it hosts a “simple yet memorable dinner” every year to bring joy to Make-A-Wish beneficiaries in the CNMI.

Hyatt’s donation is derived from proceeds of its annual golf tournament.

Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam/CNMI serves the islands of Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands and is one of 65 chapters of Make-A-Wish Foundation throughout the U.S and its territories.

For more information, call Guam: (670) 649-9474, Northern Marianas (670) 483-9474 or email info@guam.wish.org or visit them on Facebook. (Jayson Camacho)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment to the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone) For Carmen Safeway Enterprises, Inc.

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. Carmen Safeway Enterprises Inc. is requesting to rezone lots 006 H 11, 006 H 12, and 006 H 15 from “Village Commercial” to “Mixed Commercial” zoning district to operate a funeral home and crematory services. These areas are located along Beach Road, across from Meena’s clothing store and Aquarius Beach Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Thursday, April 3rd 2014

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Zoning Office conference room, 2nd floor, Joeten Dandan Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, April 2nd 2014. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS					
Guam		Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan (beach side)			
MARIANAS JUNIOR CUP 19U M/W Doubles	KIDS CLINIC FOR 19U	MARIANAS PRO-AM CUP REGISTRATION & PRO PLAYER EXHIBITION	MARIANAS PRO-AM CUP M/W DOUBLES POOL PLAY	MARIANAS PRO-AM CUP DOUBLE ELIMINATION	MARIANAS KIDS CUP 17U & 14U 4P
February 15-16	February 19	February 21	February 22	February 23	March 1
SAT/SUN	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY
9 am – 5 pm	4 – 6 pm	Registration 4 – 5:30 pm Exhibition 5:30 – 9:30 pm	Player Check-In 7:30 am – 8 am Games 8 am – until finished	Player Check-In 7:30 am – 8 am Games 8 am – until finished Awards banquet immediately following	Registration Tues 2/25 Final Registration Thurs 2/27 at MHS Gym 4-6 pm

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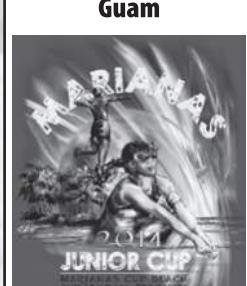
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THIS WEEKEND

MARIANAS JUNIOR CUP
February 15-16
Guam



19U Men's & Women's Doubles

- Gun Beach in Tumon Bay, Guam.
- Registration Forms available at www.nmivolleyball.org
- \$30/team until 2/14
- Open to all players 19U
- Get more info off the registration form or contact Jon Cramer at (671) 727-7499 or email joncramer69@gmail.com

MHS GIVE Club braves rain to 'Beautify My Marianas'

The Marianas High School GIVE Club recently braved heavy rains to "Beautify My Marianas" and pick up trash in Susupe. On Jan. 25, a total of 10 club members picked up five bags of trash from Civic Center beach south to Saipan World Resort.

"At the beginning the heavy rain was a problem for us...we were worried that we wouldn't be able to pick up that much trash," said the group in their post-action report on the cleanup. However, the group was able to reach their collection goal.

Participants were Rosalie Agulto, Mobtasim Alam, Nomi Caacbay, Esther Choi, Jaydene Ermitanio, Jenny Habijan, Lee Ann Jastilana, Charlene



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas High School GIVE Club conducted a "Beautify My Marianas" cleanup on Jan. 25, 2014, from Civic Center beach to Saipan World Resort.

Mae Lubong, Andela Romolor, Maricar Valdez, and chaperone Dr. Chas Algair.

Bayani Association also held a recent "Beautify My Marianas" cleanup from Civic Center beach to Sugar Dock, gathering 24 bags of trash.

"Trash bins and segregators... were empty, or if not, [were] not overflowing with trash as in our first cleanup," said the group in their report. "Probably government trash collectors were

more diligent in collecting the trash inside the trash bins during those days."

"Beautify My Marianas" aims to keep the Northern Marianas clean and pristine and offers a minimum of \$100 to groups to pick up trash in designated areas on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Depending on the level of difficulty and the type of project (e.g., trash cleaning with some tree trimming or brush cutting), the \$100 fee may be increased. Applying groups must meet all eligibility guidelines.

Interested groups may apply to the Marianas Visitors Authority or Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and upon approval of their application, they will be assigned an area that requires immediate trash cleanup. It will be up to the group submitting their application to decide how many people will clean the area and when the cleanup will be accomplished. Applications are available at www.mymarianas.com and www.saipanchamber.com. (MVA)



SOBRIETY TEST TRAINING

Sixteen members of the Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth State Police division attended a three-day training this week at the Pacific Islands Club. These 16 attendees were made up of officers from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. This three-day course trained officers on the Standardized Field Sobriety Test, which will enable the officers to better detect, apprehend, and deter impaired drivers in the CNMI. The officers had to show proficiency in both written and physical testing environments. This training was provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Department of Public Safety. Sgt. Anthony Macaranas and Officer Juan Mendiola instructed the three-day course.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 13, 2006

No more repeat of abuses'

The bill that would abolish the Marianas Public Lands Authority provides critical safeguards against abuse of public funds within the proposed department, according to the Fitial administration. John S. Del Rosario Jr., the governor's special policy adviser, said that the two vital and critical safeguards under the proposed measure deal with the budgetary process and the annual audit of the proposed Department of Public Lands. He maintained that, by providing sufficient review of the ac-

tivities of the proposed department, the measure presents a responsible approach to the current problem with MPLA.

Labor faces shortage of investigators

The Department of Labor has a shortage of labor enforcement investigators, according to acting Labor secretary Gil M. San Nicolas. San Nicolas disclosed that right now the department has only five labor enforcement investigators on Saipan. Labor needs at least three or four more investigators, San Nicolas told the Saipan Tribune in an interview. "We have a problem with the enforcement section because

of the volume of the complaints coming in," he said.

February 13, 2007

Man found dead at beach

The body of a man, described by police as possibly of Micronesian descent, was found floating in the waters of Kilili Beach in Susupe Saturday morning. Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr. said yesterday that foul play and drowning have not been ruled out in the case. Police have not released the victim's identity pending notification of the next of kin. Blas said DPS received a call Saturday at 9:55am about a lifeless body floating in the waters of the Kilili Beach shore area.

Paseo drinking fountains turning into ashtrays

The five drinking fountains at

the Paseo de Marianas in western Garapan are not operational and have been turned into ashtrays and trash bins by passers-by. In fact, people who work at Paseo say the drinking fountains have never been operational and no drop of water has flowed from its tap since the official opening of the promenade. In an interview with Saipan Tribune, Parks and Recreation Division supervisor Raymond C. Sablan said that when the contractor completed and turned over the project to the government, the drinking fountains were not working.

February 13, 2008

Casino project scaled down

Bridge Investment Group is moving forward with its planned 300-room casino hotel investment project on Tin-

ian, albeit scaled down into the \$40-\$50 million range from the originally planned \$200 million investment. Phillip Mendiola-Long, the company's vice president for CNMI operations, declined to comment on the downsizing of Bridge Investment's outlay for its Tinian casino hotel project. One of the company's investors, Erik F. Wang, arrived on Saipan yesterday and announced to the media Bridge Investment's intention to move ahead with the project, said the project would be composed of two phases that would total some \$40 million to \$50 million. Saipan Tribune archives quoted Mendiola-Long as saying in previous interviews that the project would total \$150 million to \$200 million. The project's "ceremonial groundbreaking" in late December 2007 was cancelled, in part

because of the introduction of House Bill 15-322, a measure that intended to legalize gambling on Saipan.

2007 remittances decline to \$93.6M

Remittances dropped to its lowest levels in four years as the sector experienced an 8.4-percent drop in overseas money transfers in calendar year 2007. According to last year's remittance report from the Department of Commerce, remittance figures decreased to \$93.6 million compared to \$102.2 million in calendar year 2006. The remittance figures last year are the lowest since Commerce reported total remittances of \$80.5 million in 2003. The following two years, remittances increased by double figures—17.5 percent to \$94.6 million in 2004 and 19 percent to \$112.6 million in 2005.

2014 Marianas March Against Cancer set for May 2

The 2014 Marianas March Against Cancer organizing committee has begun preparations for the largest annual cancer fundraising event in the Northern Mariana Islands. The 2014 MMAC will be held on May 2-3 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

The Marianas March Against Cancer is the largest fundraising activity and signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-led non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to promoting cancer awareness and prevention, providing patient support services, and serving as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the CNMI. Thousands of people participate in the MMAC, including teams representing families, businesses, non-profit organizations, schools, and government agencies.

"We raised a record amount last year and we hope to match or exceed that this year. With this being the 12th year of the MMAC, we are confident that the community will come out in full force in support of the battle against cancer," said 2014 overall committee chair Manny Borja.

The 12-hour event will feature teams competing in four categories: Pulan (Families),

Napu (Schools), Puti'un (Businesses) and Atdao (Non-Profit/Government Agencies).

"It's possible for there to be a combination of any two categories such as a school and a business, a school and a non-profit organization, a business and a non-profit organization, etc. The registration fee will be determined by the category or combination of categories each team falls under," said Borja.

Teams will be competing to win best tent, best baton, most money raised in each category, most luminaries sold, most spirit and most laps.

The MMAC is also a time for the community to pay their respects to all those who have been directly affected by cancer. All cancer survivors and those currently undergoing cancer treatment are invited to the annual survivor dinner held in their honor. Each survivor will be treated to a complimentary dinner buffet and will be awarded a unique medallion and T-shirt commemorating their fight against cancer.

"This is a very important part of the MMAC. Every one of us knows someone who has been affected by cancer and the survivor ceremony is our chance to celebrate their perseverance and strength," said Borja.

To participate in the survivor dinner or for more information

Entertainers sought for MMAC

The 2014 Marianas March Against Cancer committee is inviting all musicians, bands, dancers, and other entertainers to perform live at the 2014 MMAC—the largest annual cancer fundraising event in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"We are calling on all performers who are interested in volunteering their time to show their support in the fight against cancer by performing live at the 2014 MMAC. This overnight event will take place from 6pm on Friday, May 2, to 6am on Saturday, May 3. We have limited slots available on a first-come, first-served basis

so please contact us as soon as possible to confirm your spot," said 2014 MMAC entertainment committee chairs L.J. Castro and Celia Mercado.

"Thousands of participants attend the MMAC every year so this is your chance to show your support in the battle against cancer by performing live for our community," said Castro.

To register or for more information call Castro at 483-1027 or email ljmamis@gmail.com.

The Marianas March Against Cancer is the largest cancer fundraising activity in the Northern Mariana Islands. It is the

signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-led non-profit 501(c)3 organization that ensures all funds raised are spent entirely in the CNMI on cancer awareness and prevention programs, cancer patient support services and other cancer-related activities.

The 2014 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on May 2-3 from 6 p.m.-6 a.m. at Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao. For more information on the MMAC call 989-1987, email emanuel.borja@gmail.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. (CCA)

where important information will be discussed," said Borja. For details on forming a team contact team recruitment committee chairs Catherine Attao-Toves at 285-1828 or Tara T. White and Betty Kosam at mmacteams@gmail.com.

"We are inviting all families, businesses, schools, non-profit organizations and government agencies to participate as teams. We will hold our next team meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 5:30pm at the CCA conference room on Middle Road in Gualo Rai (by NMPASI). All interested members of the community are urged to join this meeting

\$2,999) or supporting sponsorship (\$1-\$999). We welcome all donations so please contact MMAC sponsorship committee chair Nola Hix 989-6652 or email nola.hix@gmail.com for more information," said Borja.

"Live entertainment is another big part of the MMAC so we invite all musicians, bands, dancers and other performers to show their support for the fight against cancer by performing live at the 2014 MMAC. We have limited slots available on a first-come, first-served basis so please contact MMAC entertainment committee chairs L.J. Castro or Celia Mercado at 483-1027 or email ljmamis@gmail.com," said Borja.

The 2014 MMAC committee members include Borja (overall chair); David Rosario (accounting and registration); L.J. Castro and Celia Mercado (entertainment); Jenypy Sambile and Krizia Mendoza (luminary); Rob Travilla and Christopher A. Concepcion (public relations); Gloriana Teuira (logistics); Nola Hix (sponsorship); Nora Sablan (survivors); Catherine Attao-Toves, Tara T. White and Betty Kosam (team recruitment); Ashley Benavente and Krizia Mendoza (T-shirts).

For more information contact Borja at 989-1987 or email emanuel.borja@gmail.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. (CCA)



TEACHER READ TRAINING

It's not enough just to have excellent teaching materials. Early Childhood Education faculty need creative and results-oriented strategies for use with their students. The Teacheread training is based on a curriculum that teaches essential literacy skills for use not only in the childcare workplace, but also in future educational pursuits. Additionally, adults learn how to be reading role models for children. The CNMI Motheread/Fatheread proudly hosted their very own Teacheread training session on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014, from 7:30am to 5pm at Herman's Modern Bakery conference room. Twelve vivacious Day Care participants from the CNMI participated in this all-day event: Bright Minds (Junnie Masga and Julieta Baroro), Children's World Daycare Center (Lorna Santos and Amorzlita Borja), Tender Love Child Care (Marissa Ignacio and Emma Panlilio), Green Meadow (Maricar Deseo, Andrea Tabora, and Anita Delgado), and SmartStart (Maricel Javier, Estrella Jumilla and Rose Limjoco). Teacheread Training facilitators Bryan Manabat and Viola Deleon Guerrero presented on topics ranging from Read Aloud Strategies and Techniques, Online Research Activities, to Storysharing Presentations. CNMI Teacheread is a Motheread Program in partnership with the Northern Marianas Council for the Humanities and the Child Care Development Fund, DCCA. Special thanks go out to the hardworking and gracious staff of Herman's Modern Bakery and Jimy Ararao.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Zoos should save, not kill

The killing of a young giraffe at a Danish zoo—after which it was publicly butchered and fed to lions—breaks what should be the most inviolate if unwritten contract when humans remove wild animals from their natural habitat: to protect and keep healthy those animals and their descendants.

A spokesman for the Copenhagen Zoo said the killing with a bolt gun of the 2-year-old giraffe was done to prevent inbreeding of the zoo's population. The zoo brushed off other options, such as giving the animal to another willing zoo (and there were several) or keeping it in a separate enclosure so that it would not breed. The zoo said it needed that space for more genetically useful animals.

The action, and the explanation, cast a harsh spotlight on the role of zoos, a role that is increasingly being questioned as we learn more about wild animals and their difficulties in captivity. Humans love zoos, and have for thousands of years. They entertain, delight and educate children and adults alike. But in recent years it has become clear that neither entertainment nor even education are enough; humans have weighty responsibilities that go with removing animals from the wild and putting them on display.

Killer whales, which in the wild form close family bonds and travel long distances, clearly were not meant for life as captive performers. These days, we can see how inhumane the old elephant enclosures were. We have yet to determine whether the newer style of exhibits—larger, with softer ground and more stimulating activities for the elephants—will do right by them. Animal protection, and the restoration of critically endangered species, have taken a more important role in the mission of zoos.

More than ever, zoos are taking responsibility for the well-being of their animals, which means keeping them alive and healthy as long as possible. That's not what happened here. And what lesson does it teach the public about respecting and admiring wild animals when that education includes the killing and dismemberment of an animal?

Of course, the zoo's lions weren't about to turn into herbivores if they weren't fed giraffe meat; another animal would have died instead. But there is a difference between a zoo's responsibility toward domesticated animals, long raised for meat, and the commitment it should make toward its wild animals. The wilderness is a harsh place too, but at least the giraffe would have had a chance of escaping its predators there, rather than having its arbitrary death chosen for it.

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GOOD NEWS! OPTING OUT OF THE WORK FORCE GIVES AMERICANS A CHANCE TO PURSUE OTHER ENDEAVORS...



Vee, Valentines, and Vie Day

By my announcement, it is my last day at Shenyang Aerospace University Friendship Villa, so I am calling it my *valedictory* day. I was given my walking papers when China's Foreign Affairs Department decided not to extend my working visa to fulfill existing age regulations. However, I was told that the International Education Center will continue to use my services after I declared that I was an asset available to them living in the neighborhood.

I suggested an *emeritus* relationship, which does not obligate the university to put me on the payroll but could easily justify retaining my residence at its facility. I asked to retain my quarters. I had not heard from the head honcho whether I could stay, but I was advised by a Chinese colleague that if I wanted to play the game on who is going to wink first, in the absence of a definite "NO," I should remain in my quarters until advised to do otherwise.

"Take the absence of a response as a tacit 'Yes,'" she said. I understand the cultural reluctance to say "No", but perhaps, in this instance, since I am a foreigner with a different context, I should at least have the benefit of a response to my request, one way or the other.

Not to be ornery, but the garden apartment that I and my host family bought, signing my soul on the bank's dotted lines, will not be handed over until July, and with the interior still to be constructed, I do not foresee a welcome mat on the door until late in October. We also purchased on the understanding that we cannot dispose of the property for another five years. This was the developer's guarantee that the units were bought not as objects of speculative investment that could easily destabilize the cost, but availed by serious dwellers. Anyway, I shall pack.

Decent rentals require a one-year contract, so I hope to continue my residency on campus until the apartment is available and ready. This is hardly comparable to the dilemma of CNMI homeowners and their mortgage repayments in the current economic difficulties of many families, but my standard of living is lower than theirs, so I may be less anxiety-prone than they are.

It is also *votive* candles' day as members of my age group increasingly are fast fading into the sunset. Two succumb to cancer last year, and three breathed their last in the last three months from natural causes. They were well beyond the average life expectancy of our time, and given my host culture's penchant for honoring deeply and most respectfully the memory of the dead, particularly elders, I have held a *votive* candle vigil on behalf of acquaintances who are battling "terminal" diseases, and for at least a month, those who have departed. I have six candles on the green garden of my window ledge at the moment.

Valentines Day is observed second only to *Halloween* but ahead

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



of Santa Claus' Christmas as the most promoted Western holiday in the Chinese calendar. It is also the celebration of the romantic love projected by Hollywood, exploited without mercy by the masters and mistresses of trade and commerce in China's malls. This, Chinese lunisolar calendar.

Valentines comes too close to the recently concluded Lunar New Year and the Spring Festival, but the market stalls are full of the "I heart (for love) you," "I dove (for peace) you", and "I Mickey Mouse ears you" (don't know what that means) images and motifs in objects and toys, and are also common symbols in T-shirts and other attire meant for the young generation.

Debunked in recent years from its religious moorings in the martyrology of the saintly Roman *Valentinus*, persecuted before Constantine took the Byzantine throne for consecrating the marriages of Roman soldiers to Christian women, Valentines Day, nevertheless, remains a potent come-on for the marketers of chocolate and candy, red and pink roses, fuchsias and peonies, tulips and the *acer palmatum*, the later gracing verandas on Saipan, especially among the local *nikkejin*.

But it is my *vie* day, the French word for "life" adopted into my signature of *j'aime la vie*, "I love life." Among my repertoire of short courses, I voraciously celebrate the given-ness of life thus: "Like me, you are a *nobody*. In the scheme of things, the planet at 4.5 billion years old expected to be around for another 4.5 billion years, in a universe 14.3 billion years already in its swirl, your ideal 80-some years of existence is hardly an earth speck on the sun's ray. However, those 80-some years, even possibly 90 or a hundred, are all yours for the taking. Putting a face into it is solely your choice and response-ability. Not unequaled but unique, unrepeatable but leaving your signature on the mold, you are one special creature, one of a kind in the whole universe. Like me, you are definitely a *somebody*."

As nobodies, status and achievement are to naught; as somebodies, we explode in engagement, encounter, and expenditure in that one moment in time, 80-some years of a human journey.

Have a full-filling *vie* day!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Espiritu Tradision

Deste tutuhon tautau guine siha na islas, i antigua na mañaina-ta mapetsige usun tanu' para mantension familia. Tinanom 'agun haya, golai, gulusina, yan pinegsai manusune deste antigua na komunitat Chamorro.

Saibog choda, sune, kamute, dagu yan nika plantau gi lamasan sena. Inakompañia totchen pinegsai ga'ga' 'sino fina' suette gineng peska halom tanu' yan tasi. Gi todus kinalamten pot mantension familia, kontodu peskan mas ke kiñientos miyas huyuñgi gi oriyana tasin Marianas gi boten sakman.

Gi finatton Españoñot, dañkulu na tinilaika mammasusede 'nai kumilisyano i natibu. Ginen este na pisu 'nai malulog mas fitme na kinemprende haf' mauleg, antau yan justisau siha na disision yan disposision para i linahyan.

Apmam i antigua na mañaina-ta masuñgun aminasun man-munu', minamahlau yan makeyute' sustansiañga lau ni unabes 'nai ha abandona kutturaña yan tradisioña. Adumididi' ha reskatague' pot i futturon i manatatte. Mañasaunau hit kumu presente na hinerañcion gineng sakrifisioñi niha.

Gi halom mattirun dinimandan modetnu na modun linala', kada ratu ha batsala hit kurenten tinilaika siha. Lau kumu un' yute' ya un' fondu añkhan-mu tradision natibu, makat lumaiya haf' sustansiamu kumu patgon O'Perlas iya Pasifiku. Estague' galaide' espiritu tradision. Manteni fitme!

Asuntun Familia

'Nai mahatsa insurans (insurance) hinemu', guaha siha gi man-ritirau man-linachai pagamientun niha. Ha bira siha tattu ya ha lagnos siha pot para u guaha dididi' para katsun familia.

Dos masusede: Finenina i ma-utut 25 pot sientu gi pagamientu, tinitiye ni kahulu' apas insurance hinemu' 40 pot sientu. Uttimoña, 65 pot sientu menus fuetsan monedan familia. Tat ti binatsala halom

gi aplacha' na fache' te'ug na chinatsaga.

'An tana daña' yan pipinu' na apas kandet, mas umatlibes i monedan familia papa' gi miserapble na estau. Man-a'atan hit kau guaha chachalaña i mattirun nuebu siha na subrida kontodu presiun neñikanu' lau kansadu i plaset ayudu.

Mampos chatsaga hinanau familia na tiempu. Guaha siha mas mandidog na pinadese piot gi ayu na membron man-ritirau i man-gaige gi mas tatpapa' pagamienton niha kada 15 dias. Makat na mattiru!

Kustrafas Diskuidu

Sige eskusun kadu' na inadiñgan seriosu na asuntun linahyan. 'An un' ekuñgog konbetsasion niha, gueku. Lau, sige mapustura siha kadu' sumen impottante asuntun niha. Gueku? Maletke prefektu asuntu ya sige ma-atisa otru siha man-tai sustansia na asuntu.

'An pot guaguan kandet, tanchu' i CUC.

Pot ma-utut 25 pot sientu gi sueddon man-ritirau, matanchu lagu i administrasian.

Kumahulu' health insurance, ma-apunta offisinan Kilili'.

Gi para kumahulu' fektus, mapega kanai niha gi halom betsan san-mena.

Man-ginacha' induktu sa' todus ayu siha na kustrafas i hagas masablasus i publiku ni unu gaige gi halom kostat. Manhanau lokue' i kustrafas man-bakasion ya ni unu tumuñgu ñgai' an siha mage. Utimoña todus mankesnudu ya sige kasas talañga pa'gu.

Man-ñahlalañg

Este i finu' Iñgles yan Chamorro guaha 'nai esta na'chaleg 'an matralsada palabra pot palabra. Gigon un' letke haf' sustansiañga, enseñadas humanau halom hau gi lugat chaleg.

Pot ihemopllo, pula' fan:

"Pulan i neni". Moon the baby.

"Onse i guaka". Eleven the cow.

"Loglug haga". Boiling blood.

"Buchibuchi". Bubble. A pastry product known as turnover. Haf'

For better or for worse, women reach foul-language equality

Even in the 1970s I recall a story related by a colleague who said he had been unexpectedly invited to an exclusive party filled with "beautiful people." When he told a blue story, there was utter silence. You know, one of those "I wish I were anywhere else" moments. Suddenly, a cool blonde, dripping in diamonds and holding one of those ornamental cigarette holders from another era, capped his embarrassment. "Profanity, young man," she said, "is the crutch of an inarticulate M.....F....." The other guests laughed heartily.

We all know what happened—hippies, the "summer of love," Vietnam, and liberation of both men and women from their mother's and grandmother's Victorian restrictions all of it exacerbated by the lowering of language of the movies and cable TV. We were free to speak our minds in the most vivid terms even if it included leaning heavily without restraint on the "crutch" words that by the way everyone knew, including the girls, when we were children.

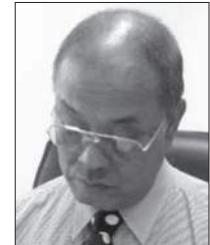
What many women say in private is another matter often even in banter with men. But nothing escapes attention for long and thus Victoria Nuland's comment in private to the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine quickly became viral.

No one knows that better than Hillary Clinton, whose initial days as first lady produced a series of tales about not only her free use of barnyard language in abusive fashion to underlings including those who were assigned to protect the president and his family has been well documented. Arkansas voters apparently had been quite aware of her

By JOHN DELROSARIO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



mohon na ti "Bira hau?"

"Sen matai". Literal translation—very dead. Siña sen-matai i matai? Estague' 'nai a' anog i pineblen liñguahita i mafanana'an "verb" 'sino palabran man-deskribe. Appens palabratu ni siña parehu sustansian niha yan un' palabru gi finu' Iñglis.

Pot chaleg: Mattu un' offisiat Navy antes para u fan inspeksion homestead. Mientras mananañga i tatan guma', estaba un' neni 'nai ilegña i prohímu, "Nice baby!" Umesalau i palao'an hulu', "Jose, chadeg sa' esta ha sasañgan este i chinigethu". A' Saina!

■ ■ ■

Sige i amku' ha pasensiaye amuña para u faisen ni pakiña M-1. 'Nai esta para ritiradan chochu', ha atrebi fumaisen, "Hey, Joe, how you like chengee' one pukpak and one be?" Ai na grasia para matuñaikan un' pake yan tatneru.

■ ■ ■

Makone' un' prohímu pot bulacheria. 'Nai mattu gi polisia, finaisen ni sarentu haf' gimemenña. Ha oppe na "Budweiser". Tiha tuñgu' i sarentu dumiletra Budweiser pue ha radio un' patrot para u fan espiha ni tai sinahguan na latan setbesa.

Matman i patrot ya mamaisen para hafague' i sarentu ni tai sinahguan na latan Budweiser. Sinablasus tattu: "Esta hu tatagu' hau latan setbesa. Chule' mage de hemunos hau haf' para bai' chogue". Debi u fan osge 'sino matugan rayaña. Dios mihi!

By DAN K. THOMASSON

MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—The recent brief dust up (let's hope it's brief) over Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland's use of the F-word as an epithet aimed at the European Union does highlight the dramatic change of culture in women in public life, including the highest ranks of the government.

While this is a scene that always has been dominated by men, more and more women are breaking through the vaunted glass ceiling to assume important roles in public and corporate affairs. In the process, however, the traditional reserve in language and attitude when women are present is slipping away. A major reason is women themselves who beginning in the 1960s became comfortable with the "good old boy" profanity laced language of the all-male board room. If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

When I was a kid, the use of what we considered the ultimate pejorative, at least, was a big time social blunder that could chill a gathering quicker than finding a rat at the bottom of the punch bowl. I remember being harassed by a female high school classmate as I struggled up a hill with a basket of goodies. About halfway up, I made clear that she should go commit and impossible biological act and was instantly pounced on by every other girl present. It took some time to win forgiveness.

Communist echoes haunt Sochi

By CATHY YOUNG

NEWSDAY

As the Olympics got underway in post-Soviet Russia this weekend, a moment in NBC's coverage briefly revived a Soviet-era controversy: the charge that Western liberals are soft on communism.

Narrating the network's lead segment on the opening ceremonies, actor Peter Dinklage mused on Russia's history and referred to "the revolution that birthed one of modern history's pivotal experiments." Conservative blogs quickly accused NBC of glorifying Russia's Soviet past. Unfortunately, such a rose-tinted view of communism is not an isolated instance. It is a mindset that still infects the left and, too often, spills over into more mainstream liberalism.

Salon.com, a leader in the left-of-center media, recently published an article by activist Jesse Myerson titled "Why you're wrong about communism," purporting to debunk American "misconceptions" on the subject. Among those alleged errors: the notion that "communism killed 110 million people for resisting dispossession." First, Myerson writes that the 110 million figure is not rooted in "sound research." Actually, the figure, based on "The Black Book of Communism," a landmark 1999 work, may be too low: The book lists

a body count of 20 million for the Soviet Union, but some scholars put the number of terror victims at 20 million-25 million and the death toll from regime-made famines as high as 10 million.

Second, Myerson argues, many victims were not resistant property owners but people who were Communists. So? No anti-communist ever claimed that all of communism's victims died for refusing collectivization. Rather, the idea of collective ownership could be imposed only through such violent coercion that even supporters of that "dream" were caught in the terror machine.

Myerson offers other standard excuses (the Soviets had to fight a revolutionary war and battle the Nazis) before turning to China to conclude that Mao's Great Leap Forward, which caused a famine that killed tens of millions, had nothing to do with communism. Then, he asserts that if communism must be held accountable for its terror toll, capitalism should be blamed not only for the deaths in wars against Communist regimes, but also for presumed future deaths from climate change. Someone should tell him communism was no environmental paradise.

While Myerson is on the far left, milder versions of such apologetics can be found closer to the media mainstream. In 2005, reviewing a biography of Mao, New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof argued that "Mao's legacy is not all bad" and that his rule

"brought useful changes to China."

Meanwhile, U.S. Communists such as folk singer Pete Seeger, a onetime admirer of Josef Stalin, often get a pass for supporting murderous totalitarianism. After Seeger's death last month, David Graham, a political editor at The Atlantic, admitted the singer took some "distressing and dangerous positions"—but argued that his pro-communist politics were part of an idealistic commitment to social justice that also led him to embrace the civil rights movement.

After "The Black Book of Communism" was published, socialist writer Daniel Singer lamented in The Nation that to see communism as "merely the story of crimes"—rather than flawed but real "social advancement"—is to give up on the possibility of "radical transformation" today. It's a telling admission. Many on the left still yearn for egalitarian alternatives to capitalism, often finding them in authoritarian left-wing regimes such as the rule of Hugo Chávez in Venezuela.

Democratic capitalism is nothing if not flawed. But if there is one thing the 20th century should have taught us, it's to beware of noble "experiments" that use human beings as their fodder.

Cathy Young is a regular contributor to Reason magazine and the website RealClearPolitics. She wrote this for Newsday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▾75°

▲86° ▾76°

▲87° ▾76°

▲87° ▾76°

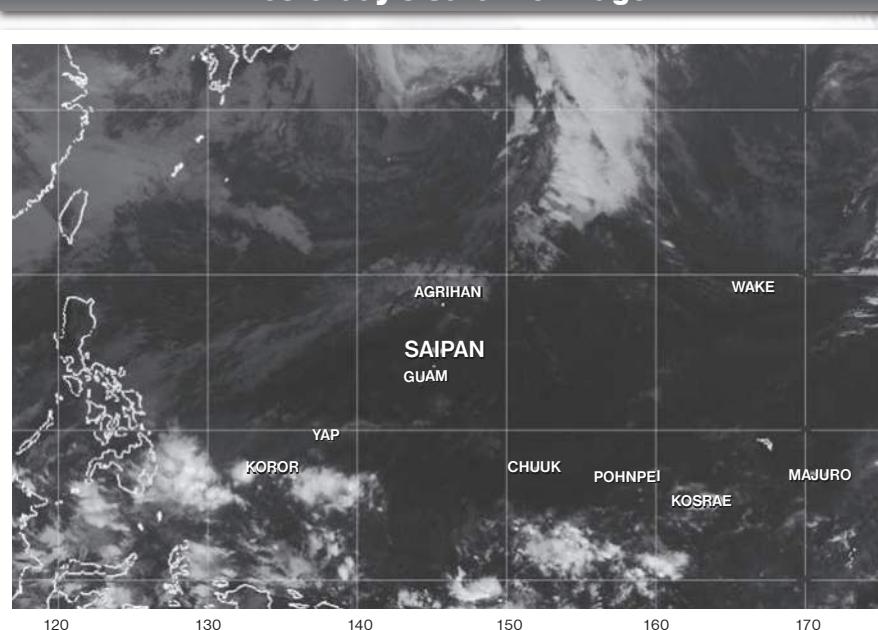
▲87° ▾76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▾76
Palau	Showers	▲84 ▾76
Yap	Sunny	▲87 ▾76
Chuuk	Sunny	▲85 ▾79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▾78
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▾78
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▾81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▾63
Beijing	Sunny	▲41 ▾23
Hong Kong	Showers	▲58 ▾54
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▾69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲46 ▾36
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲76 ▾53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▾73
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲84 ▾64
Miami	Thundershowers	▲74 ▾51
New York	Ice	▲36 ▾30
Osaka	Showers	▲41 ▾39
Paris	Showers	▲50 ▾39
Pusan	Windy	▲47 ▾35
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲59 ▾49
Salem	Cloudy	▲54 ▾47
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲64 ▾55
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲42 ▾25
Tokyo	Ice	▲42 ▾38
Washington, DC	Ice	▲37 ▾29



Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends from 25N152E to 19N146E and continues as a shear line past 12N130E. Scattered showers can be found northwest of the Mariana Islands along and up to 225 miles north of the boundary. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms ahead of the cold front are located between 23N and 25N from 151E to 155E. A near-equatorial trough stretches from 4N130E to EQ157E. Convergence along and north of the trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over and south of Palau between the equator and 7N from 130E to 140E and south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 4N from 151E to 161E. A weak surface trough extends from 3N175E to 7N175E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located east of Majuro between 5N and 9N from 173E to 180. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms could be found east of Wake Island between 18N and 22N from 175E to 180.

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:43 AM	6:20 PM	Today	4:56 PM	5:07 AM
Friday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM	Friday	5:45 PM	5:48 AM
Saturday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM	Saturday	6:33 PM	6:28 AM
Sunday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM	Sunday	7:21 PM	7:08 AM
Monday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM	Monday	8:09 PM	7:47 AM

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

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Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5039	1:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA5078	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA5072	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	1:35pm	2:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	2:40pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-OSSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
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SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ602	2:20am	5:50am	3
OZ606</			

Business

Widest earnings gap for college grads in 48 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—The earnings gap between young adults with and without bachelor's degrees has stretched to its widest level in nearly half a century. It's a sign of the growing value of a college education despite rising tuition costs, according to an analysis of census data released Tuesday.

Young adults with just a high-school diploma earned 62 percent of the typical salary of college graduates. That's down from 81 percent in 1965, the earliest year for which comparable data are available.

The analysis by the Pew Research Center shows the increasing economic difficulties for young adults who lack a bachelor's degree in today's economy that's polarized between high- and low-wage work. As a whole, high-school graduates were more likely to live in poverty and be dissatisfied with their jobs, if not unemployed.

In contrast, roughly nine in 10 college graduates ages 25 to 32 said that their bachelor's degree had paid off or will pay off in the future, according to Pew's separate polling conducted last year. Even among the two-thirds of young adults who borrowed money for college, about 86 percent said their degrees have been, or will be, worth it.

"In today's knowledge-based economy, the only thing more

expensive than getting a college education is not getting one," said Paul Taylor, Pew's executive vice president and co-author of the report. "Young adults see significant economic gains from getting a college degree regardless of the level of student debt they have taken on."

The latest findings come amid rising college tuition costs, which have saddled young adults in the so-called Millennial generation with heavy debt amid high unemployment. Noting the increasing importance of a college education, President Barack Obama and Republicans such as Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida have pushed proposals to make higher education more affordable as a way to promote upward mobility and bolster America's shrinking middle class.

The report found that not only does a college degree typically yield much more inflation-adjusted earnings than before, but a high-school diploma also is now worth less. That adds to a widening earnings gap that Pew researchers found mirrors the U.S. gap between rich and poor.

For instance, college graduates ages 25 to 32 who were working full time now typically earn about \$17,500 more annually than employed young adults with just a high school diploma (\$45,500 vs. \$28,000); those with a two-year degree or some

remove their child from the car seat," the NHTSA letter said.

The agency wants Graco to identify the total number of seats that potentially have the defect and explain why it excluded the infant seats. NHTSA, which began investigating the seats in October of 2012, said the investigation remains open. The agency said it could hold a public hearing and require Graco to add the infant seats.

Graco, a division of Atlanta-based Newell Rubbermaid, told The Associated Press that its tests found that food or beverages can make the harness buckles in the children's seats sticky and harder to use over time.

Rear-facing infant seats aren't being recalled because infants don't get food or drinks on their seats, Graco spokeswoman Ashley Mowrey said. But Mowrey said Graco will send replacement buckles to owners of infant seats upon request.

Mowrey said the company has issued cleaning tips for the buckles, and began sending replacement buckles to owners last summer. Graco is also sending instructions for how to replace the buckles and posting a video on its website to show parents how to replace them.

"Some of these consumers have had no choice but to resort to the extreme measure of cutting the harness straps to

college training earned \$30,000. In 1965, before globalization and automation wiped out many middle-class jobs in areas such as manufacturing, the inflation-adjusted gap was just \$7,449.

Meanwhile, median earnings for high-school graduates have fallen more than \$3,000, from \$31,384 in 1965 to \$28,000 last year.

Young adults with just high-school diplomas now are also much more likely to live in poverty, at 22 percent compared to 7 percent for their counterparts in 1979.

"Despite their higher levels of college completion, today's young adults overall are doing no better—and on many key indicators of economic well-being, they're doing worse—than older generations were doing when they were the same age that Millennials are now," Taylor said.

"This is mainly because the economic penalties for not getting a college degree are so much stiffer now than in the past."

Other findings:

■ Young employed college

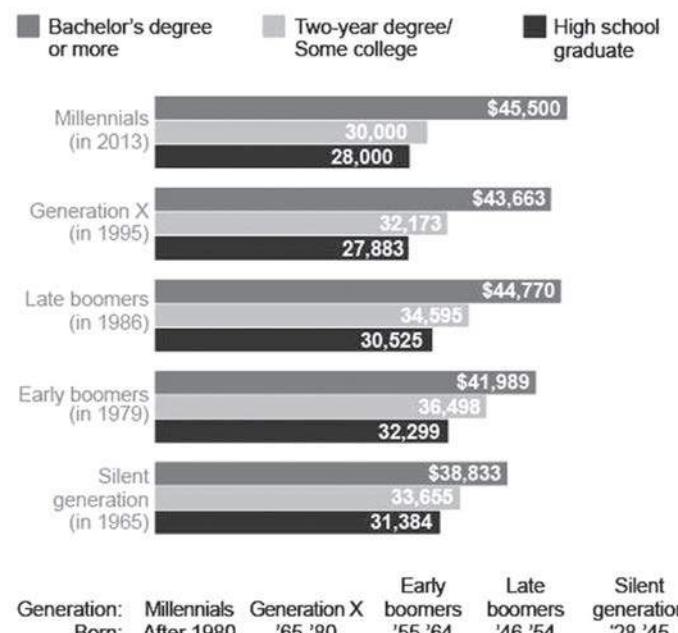
graduates are more likely than

those with just a high school

Millennials face earnings gap

Less-educated members of the millennial generation face a larger earnings gap than previous generations at similar times in their careers.

Median annual earnings among full-time workers ages 25 to 32 by generation and education level, in 2012 dollars:



SOURCE: Pew Research Center

diploma or less to say their job is a career or stepping stone to a career. In contrast, those with just a high school diploma or less were three times more likely than college graduates to say their work is "just a job" to help them get by—42 percent vs. 14 percent.

■ The field of study in college does seem to matter. Those who studied science or engineering were most likely to say that their current job is "very closely" related to their college or graduate field of study, at 60 percent, compared to 43 percent for both liberal arts and business majors.

■ About three-fourths of all college graduates say they regretted not doing more during school to better prepare themselves to find a job, such as getting more work experience, studying harder or looking for work sooner.

Pew based its findings on the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey as of March 2013, as well as its own survey of 2,002 adults interviewed by cellphone or landline from Oct. 7-27, 2013. The Pew poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.7 percentage points.

US airlines facing pilot shortage

By LINDA LOYD
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

A storm is brewing in the cockpit of U.S. airlines: a pilot shortage.

Thousands of pilots are nearing the mandatory retirement age of 65, just as it is becoming harder to be a commercial airline pilot.

New federal pilot-rest rules and tougher qualification standards requiring new pilots to have 1,500 hours of flight experience—up from 250—have come at the same time that throngs of senior pilots will be retiring.

The new mandates were implemented in the past six months, in response to the Colgan Air crash near Buffalo on Feb. 12, 2009, that killed all 49 aboard the plane and one man on the ground.

National Transportation Safety Board hearings focused on whether the plane's two pilots were properly trained and whether factors such as fatigue may have affected their performance.

Although job prospects for commercial pilots are bright, and regional airlines are scooping up newly minted aviators with signing bonuses, fewer young people are choosing aviation careers.

The reason: the cost of training and low entry-level pay—



Pilots look out on an American Airlines Boeing 777-300 with the new paint scheme at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, Thursday, February 14, 2013.

\$20,000 to \$25,000 a year.

New Jersey native Christopher Machado, 20, a junior at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla., has wanted to be a pilot since he was a boy, watching the planes overhead at the Newark, N.J., airport, not far from his home.

At 17, he had a private pilot's license—before he drove a car alone. Machado said the cost of his education and flight training will be about \$250,000 before he can sit in the first officer's

seat of a regional airline, where commercial pilots usually start to build experience.

Machado said he's lucky that his parents support his dream and are paying for it. "I know a lot of people who would be pilots, but for the money."

Peter Doroba, 35, a captain for Spirit Airlines, grew up in Manayunk, N.J., and after high school worked as an automobile technician while attending Montgomery County Community College at night. Along the way, he earned a private pilot's

certificate.

He transferred to Embry-Riddle in Florida in his senior year, graduated and stayed on as a flight instructor and then a flight team manager, before being hired by Spirit in 2008.

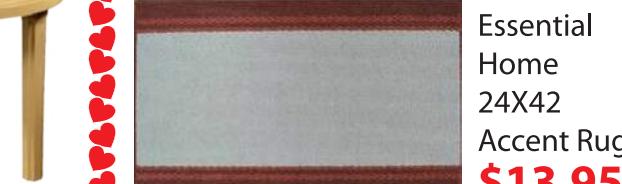
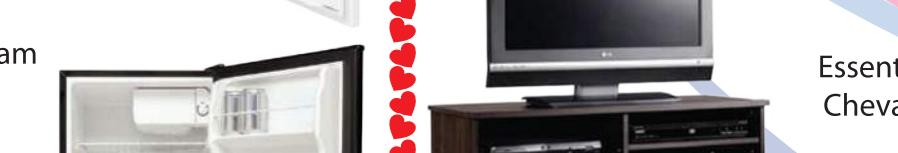
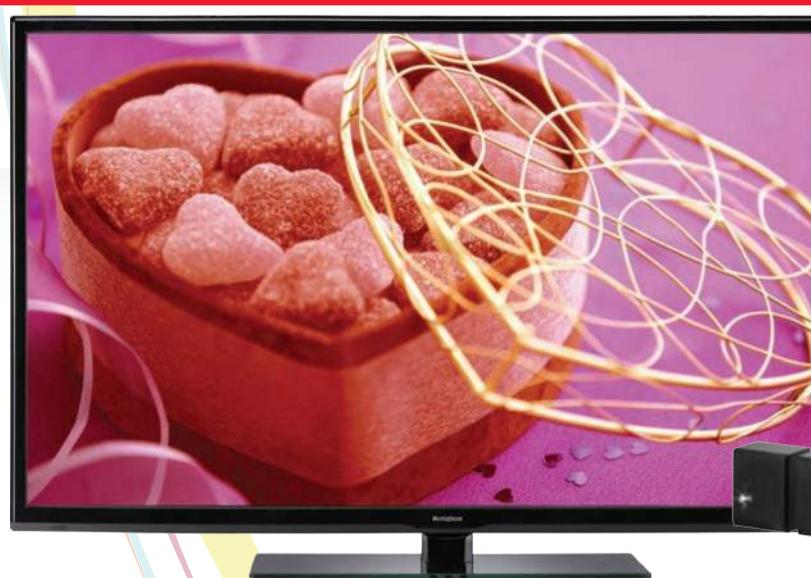
Doroba said he finished college with \$105,000 in loan debt—more than the mortgage on his house. "For years, people have talked about pilot shortages. I hope this one is real," he said. "They are not going to have any pilots if they keep the wages down at poverty levels."



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Nation

Stag state dinner for Hollande has French twist

WASHINGTON (AP)—Michelle and Barack Obama found just the right spot to seat a guest going stag to Tuesday's state dinner: They plopped French President François Hollande down right between them, and put the pshaw to all that drama about his solo trip to the U.S. after a very public breakup from his first lady.

The A-list guest roster for the biggest social event of Obama's second term—flush with celebrities, Democratic donors, politicians and business types—mostly tried not to go there, tactfully avoiding talk about "l'affaire Hollande."

"I don't get involved in those things," demurred actress Cicely Tyson, who at age 80 said she's been to plenty of state dinners over the years.

The NAACP's Ben Jealous was nothing but admiring of the French intrigue.

"I think the French are way cooler than we are on a whole lot of fronts," he said, including "way better gossip."

On a frigid night, the evening's pomp and pageantry were all designed to wrap Hollande in a comfy blanket of warmth, from the moment he stepped out of his limo and onto a red carpet on the White House north portico.



AP
First lady Michelle Obama, left, and President Barack Obama welcome French President François Hollande for a State Dinner at the North Portico of the White House on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014, in Washington.

The Obamas were there on the front steps to greet the French president, the first lady clad in a black and liberty blue silk gown by Carolina Herrera.

Among the guests, one of the most frequent phrases of the night was "un peu." As in, nope, don't speak much French.

A few brave souls ventured

out of their comfort zones to try a word or two.

"Oui, oui, oui," declared the Rev. Al Sharpton, sounding like he was reciting the nursery rhyme about the little piggies.

Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson proudly announced that wife Michelle Rhee had taught him two French phrases

"and I'm ready to bust 'em out." Here goes: "bonsoir" and "bon appetit."

Amidst all the pleasantries and tactful chitchat, there was the occasional moment of candor.

Cosmopolitan editor Joanna Coles, asked about her dress, told reporters, "I was hoping it wasn't too slutty."

House Republicans back away from debt fight

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unwilling to spook the markets and divided among themselves, House Republicans backed away from a battle over the government's debt limit Tuesday and permitted President Barack Obama's Democratic allies to drive quick passage of a measure extending Treasury's borrowing authority without any concessions from the White House.

The 221-201 vote came hours after Speaker John Boehner announced that his fractured party would relent.

Just 28 Republicans voted for the measure, including Boehner and his top lieutenants. But 193 Democrats more than com-

sated for the low support among Republicans.

Senate Democrats hoped to vote on the legislation as early as Wednesday and send it to Obama for his signature.

The move was denounced by many conservative groups but came after most Republicans in the House made clear they had no taste for another high-stakes fight with Obama over the nation's debt ceiling, which must be raised so the government can borrow money to pay all of its bills.

The bill would permit the Treasury Department to borrow normally for another 13 months, putting off the chance

of a debt crisis well past the November elections and providing time for a newly elected Congress to decide how to handle the issue.

Just Monday, Republicans suggested pairing the debt measure with legislation to roll back a recent cut in the inflation adjustment of pension benefits for working age military retirees. Democrats insisted on a debt measure completely clean of unrelated legislation.

"The full faith and credit (of the United States) should be unquestioned and it is not negotiable," said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

The vote comes four months

after Washington defused a government shutdown and debt crisis that burned Republicans politically—an experience they did not want to repeat.

The White House applauded Tuesday's vote.

"Tonight's vote is a positive step in moving away from the political brinkmanship that's a needless drag on our economy," White House spokesman Jay Carney said. He said Congress should now take additional steps to strengthen the economy and pressed efforts by Obama and Democrats to restore jobless benefits to the long-term unemployed and to increase the minimum wage.

of the Setzer home had been shattered.

"With the house as well-built as it was, it had to be a huge explosion," Hughen, a contractor, said of the home built four years ago. "It's just a huge mystery that a terrible thing has happened to good people."

Another neighbor, Charles Thompson, said the blast in the small neighborhood has left him shaken.

"It didn't appear that they were the kind of people this would happen to," Thompson said. "It's very scary."

Rev. Mike Ripski, senior pastor at Lebanon First United Methodist Church where the couple attended, said they will be sorely missed.

Package explodes, killing Tenn. lawyer at home

LEBANON, Tenn. (AP)—Investigators said Tuesday that a package sent to a rural Tennessee home exploded, killing a lawyer who lived there and injuring a woman.

Police said 74-year-old Jon Setzer was killed and 72-year-old Marion Setzer was in critical condition at Vanderbilt University Hospital on Tuesday.

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation officials declined to say what kind of package was sent to the Lebanon home.

"A package was delivered. As far as where or when, I can't give that information," TBI spokeswoman Illana Tate said.

Along with the TBI, agents from the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were investigating at the home on a rural cul-de-sac. Crews in white hazardous materials suits were walking around the property, and official vehicles filled the yard of the red brick two-story home with white dormers on Tuesday.

"We will be here night and day trying to come to the quickest resolution to this issue as we can," Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Director Mark Gwyn said.

Earlier, alcohol bureau spokesman Michael Knight said

The White House did its straight-faced best to keep the attention on anything but Hollande's personal life, preparing an outsized dinner-for-350 in a giant party tent on the South Lawn. (There's no room inside the White House that can handle that many guests.)

The celebrity quotient on the guest list was impressive, including actors Bradley Cooper, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Mindy Kaling and Tyson. There were plenty of politicians, per usual. And in a midterm election year, the Obamas invited in more than two dozen donors to Obama's campaigns and the Democratic Party. Among them were Irwin Jacobs, the Qualcomm Inc. founder who has given more than \$2 million to pro-Obama super PACs, and Jane Stetson, the Democratic National Committee's finance chair.

In the kind of awkward timing that gives protocol officers ulcers, the White House last fall invited Hollande and his longtime girlfriend, Valerie Trierweiler, to come for a state visit, the first such honor for France in two decades. But then just weeks ago, the two abruptly split after a tabloid caught a helmeted Hollande zipping via motorcycle to a liaison with actress Julie Gayet.

Questions immediately began to swirl about who might accompany Hollande—old girlfriend? new girlfriend?—but the 59-year-old leader ultimately

decided to come stag, forcing the White House social team to make behind-the-scenes adjustments after months of choreography and planning.

Lost in all the speculation: Hollande is far from the first world leader to sup at the White House sans companion.

China's Hu Jintao didn't bring his wife to a state dinner in 2011. Hollande's predecessor, Nicolas Sarkozy, soloed at an official White House dinner in November 2007, a month after divorcing his wife.

The White House tapped into social media to gin up excitement for the French visit.

Michelle Obama's team tweeted a photo of pickled vegetables from the White House kitchen garden to be used in the four-course dinner celebrating American cuisine, and a YouTube video shows the kitchen team at work. The main course: dry-aged rib eye beef from a family farm in Colorado, with Jasper Hill Farm blue cheese from Vermont.

The mansion's chefs temporarily took over the White House Instagram account this week to document dinner prep. One behind-the-scenes revelation: They used a paint sprayer to distribute a micro-thin layer of chocolate over the creamy ganache cake on the dessert menu. Also part of the dessert lineup: cotton candy dusted with orange zest.

ACROSS THE NATION

Missing Colorado skier found dead after avalanche

DILLON, Colo. (AP)—A skier missing after an avalanche outside a Colorado ski area was found dead Tuesday, about a day after he was swept up in a large slide. Kevin Kuybus, 46, is the 10th person to die in an avalanche nationally this season and the fourth since Sunday. The danger of more slides remained high after prolonged snowfall measured in feet that has lured skiers and snowboarders to the mountains. Kuybus lived in Highlands Ranch just south of Denver.

Atlanta area braces for ice storm

ATLANTA (AP)—The city dodged the first punch of a dangerous winter storm Tuesday, but forecasters warned of a potentially "catastrophic" second blow in a thick layer of ice that threatened to bring hundreds of thousands of power outages and leave people in their cold, dark homes for days. The forecast drew comparisons to an ice storm in the Atlanta area in 2000 that left more than 500,000 homes and businesses without power. Hundreds of Georgia National Guard troops were on standby in case evacuations were needed at hospitals or nursing homes, and more than 70 shelters were set to open. President Barack Obama declared a state of emergency in Georgia, ordering federal agencies to help the state and local response during the storm.

2 women to stand trial in nightclub killing

WESTMINSTER, Calif. (AP)—Two women accused of pummeling and kicking a 23-year-old woman who died after a fight outside a California nightclub that was captured on cellphone videos were ordered Tuesday to stand trial on murder charges. Vanesa Zavala and Candace Brito have pleaded not guilty in the death of Annie Hung Kim Pham, who was taken off life support after the fight outside the Santa Ana bar-restaurant in the early morning hours of Jan. 18. Prosecutors allege that Brito twice punched the left side of Pham's head as she scrapped with Brito's friend and then kicked Pham twice in the head after she fell to the ground and kept fighting.

Asia

Grenade attack kills 13 moviegoers in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Assailants threw grenades into a crowded movie theater in northwestern Pakistan Tuesday, killing 13 people, officials said, in an attack that shows the challenges as negotiators face off in talks between the Taliban and the government.

One of the grenades blew up the main door, and two more exploded inside the theater as about 80 people were watching a movie called "Yarana," which means friendship in Pashto, officials said. The floor of the cinema was streaked with blood while some of the seats were torn from the force of the explosion.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which occurred in Peshawar, a city near restive areas on the Afghan border that are home to Pakistani Taliban and al-Qaida-linked foreign Islamic militants. Many militant groups view movies and other forms of entertainment as obscene Western influences.

The manager of the cinema, Fayaz Khan, said he hadn't received any threats from anyone and urged the government to provide protection for them in the future.

Police official Kamal Khan said the investigation was continuing, and it wasn't clear how many attackers were involved. Another official Ijaz Khan gave the death toll and said some 20



A blood-stained shoe of a victim lies on the ground at the site of a grenade attack on a crowded movie theater that killed and wounded many people in Peshawar, Pakistan, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014. AP

people also were wounded.

The attack comes days after Pakistan began peace negotiations with Taliban militants fighting in the country's northwest to end the violence that has killed more than 40,000 people in recent years. The Pakistani Taliban, formally called Teh-

reek-e-Taliban Pakistan, is separate from the Taliban fighting NATO-forces in neighboring Afghanistan. Although the two groups share similar ideology, the Pakistani Taliban has focused its fight against the Pakistani government.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has made negotiating with the militants a centerpiece of his new government elected last May. That policy has many supporters in Pakistan who are tired of the seemingly unending suicide bombings and

shootings and view the war as being imposed on Pakistan by the U.S. after the invasion of Afghanistan. But others say the militants have already broken previous agreements.

After some initial stumbles, the government's efforts have

picked up steam in recent weeks with both sides naming people to represent them in the talks. Members of the Pakistani Taliban's negotiating team flew to the North Waziristan tribal agency over the weekend to meet with the militant organization's leadership at a secret location. North Waziristan, which borders Afghanistan to the west, is considered a stronghold for the militant organization as well as other groups like the Haqqani network.

On Tuesday, they met with negotiators representing the government to discuss their trip. Speaking after the meeting, Pakistani cleric, Maulana Samiul Haq, who heads the Taliban's negotiating team, said both the militants and the government have recommended a cease-fire as a confidence-building measure.

He said the Taliban had given other recommendations as well and had sought some clarification on the government's stance but he did not reveal what those were.

But attacks like Tuesday's show just how difficult it would be to implement a cease-fire.

The Pakistani Taliban have distanced themselves from the recent violence and in some cases issued outright denials.

But analysts say the TTP is an amorphous organization where many of the factions act on their own, sometimes even in conflict with the group's leadership.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Militants kill 9 anti-Taliban militia in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani police say militants have killed nine members of an anti-Taliban militia in the northwestern city of Peshawar. Police official Jamal Khan says some 25 militants attacked the militia chief's house on the city outskirts Wednesday, killing him and eight of his relatives. He says that on Feb. 1, the militants killed the chief's son and two other people after they shot dead a militant commander. Wednesday's incident comes a day after assailants threw hand grenades inside a cinema in the city, killing 13 people. No one has claimed responsibility for either attack.

Images of late Turkmen leader removed from medals

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan (AP)—Turkmenistan's president has ordered images of the nation's former leader to be taken off some state medals, the latest in a series of moves to shed the legacy of his eccentric predecessor. A decree by President Gurbanguli Berdimukhammedov published Tuesday orders the image of former President Saparmurat Niyazov be removed from three state awards. It also withdraws a medal that carries an image of Niyazov's mother. Niyazov's image, however, stays on several other medals. Niyazov was celebrated in a personality cult that saw cities, streets, months, periodicals and public organizations named after him and his family.

Hundreds rally against Okinawa base move plan

NAHA, Japan (AP)—Several hundred people rallied Tuesday ahead of a visit by U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy to the Japanese island of Okinawa to protest plans to relocate an American military base there. Okinawa is home to more than half of the 47,000 American troops based in Japan under a bilateral defense pact. Kennedy, who arrived later Tuesday, is to meet with Okinawan officials and may see the base relocation site during her three-day visit, Kyodo News agency reported. Holding signs that read, "No base!" and "Bring democracy to Okinawa," more than 300 protesters, many of them families with children, marched on the main street of Naha to the sound of drums and music, urging authorities to remove the U.S. bases from the island altogether.

Koreas hold senior-level meeting at border village

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Senior officials from the rival Koreas met Wednesday at a border village, their highest-level talks in years and a potential signal that Pyongyang wants better ties and the resumption of lucrative cooperative projects.

Seoul officials said the meeting was requested by North Korea, which has launched a recent charm offensive after raising tensions last spring with repeated threats to fire nuclear-tipped missiles against Seoul and Washington. Later this month, the two Koreas are to hold reunions of families separated since the 1950-53 Korean War. It would be the first such reunions in more than three years.

Wednesday's meeting began with no fixed agenda, but South Korea wants to discuss

ways to make the reunions run smoothly and whether to pursue them regularly, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry, which is responsible for ties with North Korea. The details of Wednesday's closed-door meetings weren't immediately available.

North Korea canceled planned reunions at the last minute in September, and has recently threatened to scrap this month's reunions because of upcoming U.S.-South Korean military drills, which it says are preparations for an invasion. But outside analysts say it's unlikely that North Korea will halt the reunions this time because it needs improved ties with South Korea to help attract foreign investment and aid.

South Korea has so far dismissed North Korea's recent proposals for a series of mea-

sures that Pyongyang says are needed to ease tensions, saying the North must first take nuclear disarmament steps and show how sincere it is about its stated desire to improve ties.

Wariness in Seoul is still high because of a weeks-long barrage of threats and provocations last spring from Pyongyang after international condemnation of its third nuclear test. Pyongyang, which has repeatedly vowed to expand its nuclear arsenal, is trying to build nuclear-armed missiles that can reach the continental U.S., but most experts say the country has yet to master the technology needed to mount an atomic bomb on a missile.

Last month, the top U.S. intelligence official said that North Korea has expanded the size of its uranium enrichment facility at its main nuclear

complex and restarted a reactor that was used for plutonium production before it was shut down in 2007.

The chief South Korean delegate at the meeting, Kim Kyou-hyun, is a vice-ministerial-level national security official with the presidential Blue House. The North Korean delegation is headed by senior ruling Workers' Party official Won Tong Yon, a veteran official specializing in ties with Seoul. North Korea demanded South Korea send a senior Blue House official to the meeting, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry.

The meeting is the highest between the Koreas in years. They held a series of high-level meetings in 2007, including a second summit of their leaders, according to the Unification Ministry.

Philippines recovers \$29M from Marcos accounts

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines says it's recovered more than \$29 million from the Swiss accounts of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and that the search for more of his hidden wealth continues.

years after he was toppled.

Andres Bautista, chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, said Wednesday that the money is part of the more than \$712 million from Marcos' secret Swiss

accounts that's now in government hands.

Bautista, whose agency is in charge of recovering Marcos' ill-gotten wealth, said the government won ownership of the funds in Singa-

pore courts over claims by victims of human rights violations under Marcos' rule and private foundations representing the Marcoses.

Bautista said more than \$4 billion has already been recovered from an estimated \$5-10 billion amassed by the Marcoses during his 20-year rule.

World

Algeria: Plane crash kills 77 but 1 man survives

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—An Algerian military transport plane slammed into a mountain Tuesday in the country's rugged eastern region, killing 77 people and leaving just one survivor, the defense ministry said.

Air traffic controllers lost radio and radar contact with the U.S.-built C-130 Hercules turboprop just before noon and dispatched helicopters to try to find it. The plane was discovered in pieces on Mount Fortas near the town of Ain Kercha, 50 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of Constantine, the main city in eastern Algeria.

The plane was heading to Constantine from the southern Saharan city of Tamanrasset, which has a massive military presence due to its proximity to the country's unstable southern borders. It was at least 24 years old, according to sales information supplied by its maker, Lockheed Martin Corp.

The plane carried 74 passengers and four crew members, the military said in its statement, blaming poor weather for the crash.

Earlier in the day, Algerian government officials and Algerian state media had reported that the plane had 99 passengers, making for a much higher death toll.

The lone survivor—a soldier—suffered head injuries and was treated at a nearby military facility before being flown to the military hospital in Algiers, a retired Algerian intelligence officer told The Associated



People look at the wreckage of Algerian military transport plane after it slammed into a mountain in the country's rugged eastern region, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014. AP



used by air forces all over the world to help fight wars or save lives in humanitarian situations.

Lockheed Martin confirmed that it sold C-130s to Algeria from 1981 to 1990 and said if Algerian authorities asked, the company would work with them to investigate Tuesday's crash. It did not release specific information on the age of the plane.

In other crashes involving similar planes, six people died in November 2012 when an Algerian Air Force C-130 crashed into a hillside in France, according to the Aviation Safety Network's database. In 2003, 10 people died when an Algerian Air Force C-130 crashed after an engine caught fire shortly after it took off from an air base near Boufarik, Algeria, according to the database.

The worst plane crash in Algerian history occurred in 2003, when 102 people were killed after a civilian airliner crashed at the end of the runway in Tamanrasset. There was also a single survivor in that crash.

Sole survivors of large plane crashes are extremely rare, said Ky Dickens of Chicago, director and co-producer of a documentary on such survivors. Dickens, who began research for her film in 2010, identified 15 sole survivors around the world. She limited her search to commercial planes carrying more than 40 people.

Many sole survivors are either children or a member of the flight crew—a flight attendant or pilot, Dickens said.

Man adrift 14 months at sea returns to El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—Jose Salvador Alvarenga returned late Tuesday to the place where he learned to love the sea, bringing with him a fish tale for the ages.

The 37-year-old, who says he survived more than a year on a small boat drifting from Mexico across the Pacific Ocean to the Marshall Islands, arrived in his native El Salvador to a media throng, a daughter who didn't remember him and a mother who thought he was dead.

He was quickly taken to a VIP lounge where he was met by Salvadoran officials, including the foreign minister and an assistant secretary of health.

"I'm so happy to know he's alive, that he returned. I want to give him a hug," said Emma Alvarenga, an aunt who arrived at the airport to see him but was left with the crush of more than 100 mostly foreign journalists waiting for a news conference.

Alvarenga's story stunned the world when he washed up on the Ebon atoll almost two weeks ago, appearing

robust and barely sunburned after more than a year at sea. But he had started out a much larger man, and turned out to be swollen and in pain from the ordeal, suffering from dehydration.

His journey home after a week of rest and medical treatment in Majuro was marked by long layovers in Honolulu and Los Angeles, where doctors checked his health and ability to continue the trip.

His father, Jose Ricardo Orellana, 65, who owns a store and flour mill in the seaside Salvadoran town of Garita Palmera, said his son first went to sea at age 14. "The sea was his thing," Orellana said.

Maria Julia Alvarenga, 59, said her son always had unusual strength and resilience.

His 14-year-old daughter, Fatima, made an archway of palms for the front door of the family home and a sign: "Welcome." She didn't remember ever seeing her fa-

ther, who left El Salvador to fish in Mexico when she was just over a year old.

Dozens of international journalists camped outside the family's green, brick complex with a ceramic floor about 10 blocks from the sea in an otherwise poor fishing village.

"I haven't seen him for eight years. We're friends, we fished together," said Hector Antonio Zuniga, 39, who said he was dropping his nephew off at the airport and decided to wait and greet Alvarenga.

Alvarenga's incredible tale of drifting across 6,500 miles (10,500 kilometers) of open ocean, eating raw fish, turtles and drinking bird blood to survive initially left many skeptics. But experts said it would be humanly possible for him to survive.

Over several days, details emerged that seemed to corroborate the horrible journey.

Alvarenga said he worked in



Alvarenga

a fishing village on the Pacific coast of Mexico's southern Chiapas state, where he embarked. A man with his nickname, "Cirilo," had been registered as missing with civil defense officials there. They said a small fishing boat carrying two men, the other named Ezequiel Cordoba, disappeared during bad weather on Nov. 17, 2012, and no trace of them or the craft was found during an intense two-week search.

Cordoba died after about a month when he couldn't eat the raw fish and turtles, Alvarenga said.

Photos from the Marshall Islands published by Britain's Telegraph newspaper showed the boat that Alvarenga purportedly arrived in. It bore the hand-lettered name of a Chiapas fishing cooperative, Camaroneros de la Costa, for which Alvarenga said he worked for in the Costa Azul near Tonala.

The photos also showed a large plastic cooler that Alvarenga purportedly used to shelter himself from the sun and sea.

Hundreds flock to 'weeping' Mary statue in Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—Hundreds of people have flocked to a small town in northern Israel to view a statue of the Virgin Mary that residents say "weeps" oil.

Members of a Christian family from Tarshiha, near the Lebanon border, say they have witnessed a miracle in their living room.

Osama Khoury said Tuesday that his wife Amira found the statue "covered with oil"



Christian worshipers gather next to a statue of the Virgin Mary, that residents say "weeps" oil, inside an apartment belonging to the Khoury family, in Tarshiha, a small town in northern Israel, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014. AP

Environment

US to crack down on ivory to protect elephants

By JOSH LEDERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States is cracking down on the sale and purchase of ivory in hopes of curbing a surge in illicit poaching that's threatening to wipe out elephants and other species in Africa.

The ivory ban is a key component of a new, national strategy for combating wildlife trafficking, unveiled Tuesday by the White House, seven months after President Barack Obama issued a call to action during a visit to Tanzania. In addition, the U.S. will seek to strengthen global enforcement and international cooperation to fight an illicit trade estimated to total about \$10 billion per year.

"We're seeing record-high demand for wildlife products," said Grant Harris, who heads Africa policy for the White House's National Security Council. "The result is an explosion of illicit trade and wildlife trafficking in recent years."

Wildlife advocates are concerned that without forceful global action, elephants and rhinos face extinction. Once numbering in the millions, Africa's elephant population has dwindled to 500,000 or less, said Dan Ashe, the director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. About 35,000—or nearly 10 percent of the remaining population—are being slaughtered each year.

The illicit industry also has significant national security implications. Because wildlife trafficking is often perpetrated by well-armed syndicates that thrive in regions with weak laws and porous borders, U.S. security offi-



This Nov. 14, 2013 file photo shows confiscated decorative ivory piled together in preparation to be destroyed during an event at the National Wildlife Property Repository at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in Commerce City, Colo. AP

cials say it poses a global security threat just as the U.S. is seeking to combat growing extremism and violence in parts of Africa.

The crackdown relies on laws about conservation and endangered species that have been on the books for years, including decades-old prohibitions on importing ivory. But inconsistent implementation and lax enforcement have meant that once the ivory is in the U.S., domestic transactions have been essentially unregulated.

That means someone who

placed an ivory chess set for sale on eBay, for example, faced little risk of running afoul of law enforcement—even if they lacked proof the item met one of the exceptions, such as being an antique.

"This legal trade has essentially provided a smoke-screen that makes it possible for this illicit trade and has made it more difficult for our enforcement officials to ferret out that crime and then prosecute that crime," Ashe said in an interview.

Under the new strategy, if

someone is caught trying to sell ivory items, the government will confiscate them unless sellers can provide documentation that they are legal. Sales across state lines will be banned except for antiques—items more than 100 years old. Sales within states will also be prohibited unless sellers can show they were brought into the U.S. before laws barring their import were put into effect.

Exports will also be banned, with few exceptions.

"For consumers, the general

message going forward is buyer beware," Ashe said.

Despite the exceptions, officials said they were confident that the crackdown would result in almost a complete ban on ivory sales. The idea is that by setting a strict example, the U.S. can spur other countries to

take similar steps, driving down global demand for wildlife products and putting traffickers out of business.

Late last year, U.S. officials destroyed more than 6 tons of confiscated ivory tusks, carvings and jewelry. Last week, France followed suit by pulverizing more than 3 tons of illegal ivory, and other nations including Gabon and China have taken similar steps.

U.S. demand for wildlife products is surpassed only by China, where the market price for ivory is more than \$1,000 a pound and has increased significantly, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

"The president and Congress have sent an unequivocal message to the rest of the world: The U.S. will no longer tolerate the massive and senseless slaughter of wildlife or the colossal criminal profits that it generates," said Carter Roberts, the group's president.

Still, the Fish and Wildlife Service won't seek to prosecute individuals, such as those who try to sell ivory trinkets they inherited from their parents, Ashe said. Instead, the agency will target its law enforcement efforts toward organized trafficking rings that profit from the illicit trade.

Last year, the government launched a sting dubbed "Operation Crash" that targeted an international smuggling ring trafficking in endangered black rhino horns.

Something is killing starfish; scientists race to find out what

By DEBORAH NETBURN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Up and down the West Coast, starfish are dying.

Casualties of a mysterious disease known as seastar wasting syndrome, they are dying in Alaska, deteriorating in San Diego and disappearing from long stretches in between.

Death from the disease is quick and not pretty. It begins with a small lesion on a starfish's body that rapidly develops into an infection the animal cannot fight.

Over the course of the disease the starfish's legs might drop off, or even separate from the body and start to crawl away.

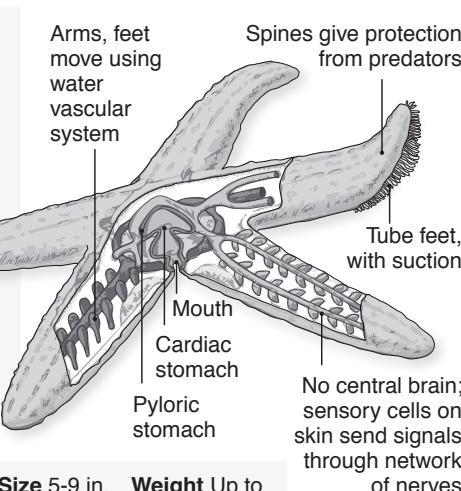
Pete Raimondi, a professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz who has been tracking the seastar crisis, said a starfish's leg moving away from its central disk is akin to a lizard's tail continuing to wriggle even after it has snapped off the lizard's body.

Stars of the sea

There are more than 2,000 species of sea stars, commonly called starfish, living in the world's oceans. The five-arm variety is the most common, but species with up to 40 arms exist.

Inside a sea star

- Sea stars are echinoderms, closely related to sea urchins and sand dollars
- Have ability to regrow limbs
- Consume prey outside bodies; stomach is pushed out of mouth to eat shelled animals



Source: National Geographic, Sea stars of the Pacific Northwest
Graphic: Melina Yingling

© 2014 MCT

"Starfish don't have a central nervous system, so it's not like if you chopped off your arm,"

he said. "The arms can still be mobile and operate on their own for a period of time — longer

than you think."

The seastar wasting epidemic was first observed last summer. Some wondered whether radiation that leaked into the Pacific Ocean from the Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan might be the cause.

"I think it is almost entirely impossible to be related to Fukushima," Raimondi told the Los Angeles Times. "We haven't ruled it out, but there are so many more likely things going on. And there is no evidence that radiation has gotten to California."

A more likely culprit is a pathogen. Either a virus, parasite or bacteria infects the animal and compromises the immune system, which leads to a secondary bacterial infection that ultimately kills the animal.

Raimondi said it shouldn't be long before scientists isolated the responsible pathogen. "We should know pretty soon," he said.

Cause of whale beachings in Florida remains elusive

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (Sun Sentinel)—More than 90 whales have become stranded on Florida beaches in the past two months, almost three times the average, baffling marine biologists and making them wonder if a deadly common denominator is at play.

"We're all starting to pay close attention to what might be going on, to see if there are any links or if they're unrelated," said Denise Boyd, a research biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Among the theories: The whales might have contracted morbillivirus, an ailment similar to canine distemper that has been attacking dolphins along the East Coast this year. But necropsies failed to confirm this.

The series of cold fronts that marched across Florida in the past month could be a factor. "Any kind of front or a hurricane disorients the animals, and they come in," said Erin

Fougeres, a marine mammal biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries.

Navy sonar, which can cause whales to aim toward shore, has been ruled out, because the Navy wasn't conducting any sonar exercises when the whales stranded, she said.

Or, the whales could be following a sick leader who was heading toward shallow waters to make breathing easier, Boyd said.

Nothing so far is conclusive, Fougeres said, and "there are cases where we just never know the cause."

On average, about 200 whales each year land on Florida's shores. About one "mass stranding," involving several whales, occurs every three years in this state, authorities said.

Yet in just the past two months, a total of 93 whales came ashore in Florida and most of those, 91, were involved in two mass strandings.

Life & Style

Curls and dimples: Shirley Temple dies at 85

Any kid who ever tap-danced at a talent show or put on a curly wig and auditioned for "Annie" can only dream of being as beloved—or as important—as Shirley Temple.

Temple, who died Monday night at 85, sang, danced, sobbed and grinned her way into the hearts of downcast Depression-era moviegoers and remains the ultimate child star decades later. Other pre-teens, from Macaulay Culkin to Miley Cyrus, have been as famous in their time. But none of them helped shape their time the way she did.

Dimpled, precocious and oh-so-adorable, she was America's top box office draw during Hollywood's golden age, and her image was free of the scandals that have plagued Cyrus, Lindsay Lohan and so many other child stars—parental feuds, drugs, alcohol.

Temple remains such a symbol of innocence that kids still know the drink named for her: a sweet, nonalcoholic cocktail of ginger ale and grenadine, topped with a maraschino cherry.

Her hit movies—which included "Bright Eyes" (1934), "Curly Top" (1935), "Dimples" (1936), "Poor Little Rich Girl" (1936) and "Heidi" (1937)—featured sentimental themes and musical subplots, with stories of resilience and optimism that a struggling American public found appealing. She kept children singing "On the Good Ship Lollipop" for generations.

She was also a tribute to the economic and inspirational power of movies, credited with helping to save 20th Century Fox from bankruptcy and praised by President Franklin D. Roosevelt himself for lifting America's spirits during a gloomy time.

She was "just absolutely marvelous, greatest in the world," director Allan Dwan told filmmaker-author Peter Bogdanovich in his book "Who the Devil Made It: Conversations With Legendary Film Directors."

"With Shirley, you'd just tell her once and she'd remember the rest of her life," said Dwan, who directed her in "Heidi" and "Rebecca of Sunnyside." "Whatever it was she was supposed to do—she'd do it. ... And if one of the actors got stuck, she'd tell him what his line was—she knew it better than he did."

Her achievements did not end with movies. Retired from acting at 21, she went on to hold several diplomatic

posts in Republican administrations, including ambassador to Czechoslovakia during the sudden collapse of communism in 1989.

Former President George H.W. Bush, who appointed Black to the post in Prague, saluted her Tuesday for "her selfless service to our country" and her film career.

"In both roles, she truly lifted people up and earned not only a place in our hearts, but also our enduring respect," Bush said in a statement.

Temple, known in private life as Shirley Temple Black, died at her home near San Francisco. The cause of death was not disclosed.

From 1935 to 1938, she was the most popular screen actress in the country and a bigger draw than Clark Gable, Joan Crawford or Gary Cooper. In 1999, the American Film Institute's ranking of the greatest screen legends put Temple at No. 18 among the 25 actresses.

"I have one piece of advice for those of you who want to receive the lifetime achievement award: Start early," she quipped in 2006 as she was honored by the Screen Actors Guild.

But she also said that evening that her greatest roles were as wife, mother and grandmother: "There's nothing like real love. Nothing." Her husband of more than 50 years, Charles Black, had died a few months earlier.

In "Bright Eyes," Temple introduced the song "On the Good Ship Lollipop" and did battle with a charmingly bratty Jane Withers, launching Withers as another major child star. As a bright-eyed orphan in "Curly Top," she sang "Animal Crackers in My Soup."

She was teamed with the legend—

ary dancer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson in two 1935 films with Civil War themes, "The Little Colonel" and "The Littlest Rebel." Their tap dance up the steps in "The Little Colonel" (at a time when interracial teamings were rare in Hollywood) became a landmark in the history of dance on film.

Known for a remarkable ability to cry on cue, she won a special Academy Award at age 6—and was presented with a miniature Oscar statuette—for her "outstanding contribution to screen entertainment."

Temple and her movies were an escapist delight and a popular sensation. Mothers dressed their little girls like her, and a line of dolls that are now highly sought-after collectibles was launched.

Her fans seemed interested in every last golden curl on her



head. Her mother, Gertrude, was said to have done her hair for each movie, with every hairstyle having exactly 56 curls.

Roosevelt once said: "As long as our country has Shirley Temple, we will be all right. When the spirit of the people is lower than at any other time during this Depression, it is a splendid thing that for just 15 cents, an American can go to a movie and look at the smiling face of a baby and forget his troubles."

Temple's mother worked to keep her daughter from being spoiled by fame and was a constant presence during filming. Temple said years later that her mother had been furious when a director once sent the mother off on an errand and then got the child to cry for a scene by frightening her. "She never again left me alone on a set," Temple said.

But Temple also suggested that in some ways, she grew up too soon. She stopped believing in Santa Claus at age 6, she once said, when "Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph."

Decades later, her interest in politics brought her back into the spotlight.

She made an unsuccessful bid for Congress as a Republican in 1967. After Richard Nixon became president in 1969, he appointed her a member of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. General Assembly. In the 1970s, she was U.S. ambassador to Ghana and later U.S. chief of protocol.

A few months after she arrived in Prague in 1989, communist rule was overthrown in Czechoslovakia as the Iron Curtain collapsed across Eastern Europe.

"My main job (initially) was human rights, trying to keep people like future President Vaclav Havel out of jail," she said in a 1999 Associated Press interview. Within months, she was accompanying Havel, the for-

In this 1933 file photo, child actress Shirley Temple is seen in her role as "Little Miss Marker."

AP

mer dissident playwright, when he came to Washington as his country's new president.

She considered her background in entertainment an asset to her political career.

"Politicians are actors too, don't you think?" she once said. "Usually if you like people and you're outgoing, not a shy little thing, you can do pretty well in politics."

Born in Santa Monica, Calif., to an accountant and his wife, Temple had just turned 3 when she made her film debut in 1932 in the Baby Burlesks, a series of short films in which tiny performers parodied grown-up movies, sometimes with risqué results.

Temple's expert singing and tap-dancing in the 1934 movie "Stand Up and Cheer!" first gained her wide notice.

Her appeal faded as quickly as it had emerged. She missed a shot at playing Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz" when 20th Century Fox chief Darryl Zanuck refused to lend out his greatest asset; the part went to Judy Garland. And "The Little Princess" in 1939 and "The Blue Bird" in 1940 didn't draw big crowds, prompting Fox to let Temple go.

Among her later films were "The Bachelor and the Bobby-Soxer," as a teen with a crush on Cary Grant, and "Miss Annie Rooney" which included her first on-screen kiss, bestowed by another maturing child star, Dickie Moore.

After her film career ended, she concentrated on raising her family and turned to television to host and act in 16 specials called "Shirley Temple's Storybook" on ABC. In 1960, she joined NBC and aired "The Shirley Temple Show."

In her 1988 autobiography, "Child Star," she revealed some dark moments during an otherwise happy life and career: An MGM producer exposed himself to her when she was 12, and her first marriage, to actor John Agar, was ruined by his drinking and verbal abuse and ended in divorce in 1949. Meanwhile, her father squandered millions of dollars she earned from the movies.

She married Black in 1950, and had two children, Lori and Charles. She also had a daughter, Susan, with her first husband.

In 1972, she underwent surgery for breast cancer and was credited with opening up public discussion about the disease. She urged women to get checked by their doctors and vowed: "I have much more to accomplish before I am through." (AP)

NEW YORK (AP)—Franklin Roosevelt once said: "As long as our country has Shirley Temple, we will be all right. When the spirit of the people is lower than at any other time during this Depression, it is a splendid thing that for just 15 cents, an American can go to a movie and look at the smiling face of a baby and forget his troubles."

As America's top box-office draw from 1935 to 1938, the tiny Temple gave the country some much needed escapism. Here are five films that Temple shined in:

■ **"Bright Eyes"** (1934): It's in this film that Temple gave perhaps her most beloved performance, singing "On the Good Ship Lollipop" down the aisle of an airplane. The rows of

adoring men (and everyone else, for that matter) swoon at the cuteness. The movies don't always have to be complicated things.

■ **"The Little Colonel"** (1935): Along with "The Little Rebel," this was one of two films Temple made in 1935 with the tap-dancing great Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. (They also made two other movies together.) They were a striking pair. Separated by race, decades in age and several feet in height, they were nevertheless a perfect match, particularly in their famous staircase dance sequence. The racial politics of "The Little Colonel" are by no means spotless (Robinson

plays a broadly smiling servant), but Temple and Robinson's magical harmony in dance may have left a more powerful impression.

■ **"Curly Top"** (1935): This film contained one of Temple's biggest hits, "Animal Crackers in My Soup," in which she serenades her orphanage at mealtime, "I walk around like Noah's Ark/ I stuff my tummy like a goop." The New York Times said of "Curly Top": "So shameless is (the film) in its optimism, so grimly determined to be cheerful, that it ought to cause an epidemic of axe murders and grandmother beatings."

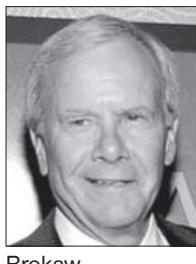
adult-like gestures—claimed she was just masquerading as a child. He suggested that Temple's adult admirers were responding to "her well-shaped and desirable little body, packed with enormous vitality." A subsequent lawsuit over the review bankrupted the magazine, *Night and Day*.

■ **"Heidi"** (1937): Temple often played orphans, including in Allan Dwan's drama about a Swiss girl kidnapped by her grandmother and taken to live richly in Germany. The portrait of Old World splendor in "Heidi" played as fantasy during the Depression. Along with "Wee Willie Winkie," it captured Temple transitioning toward slightly more mature performance.

NBC's Tom Brokaw diagnosed with cancer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Veteran TV newsman Tom Brokaw has been diagnosed with cancer, NBC News said Tuesday.

The Mayo Clinic discovered last summer that Brokaw has multiple myeloma, a cancer affecting blood cells in the bone marrow, NBC News said. His doctors are optimistic about his treatment and encouraged by



Brokaw

his progress since the August diagnosis, the network division said.

In a statement released by NBC, Brokaw said he remains, in his words, "the luckiest guy I know."

"With the exceptional support of my family, medical team and friends, I am very optimistic about the future and look forward to continuing my life,"

my work and adventures still to come," he said.

The former national anchor, now an NBC News special correspondent, has continued to work on projects during his treatment and is contributing to NBC Sports coverage of the Winter Olympics, NBC said.

Brokaw, who turned 72 on Feb. 6, said he is grateful for the interest in his health but wants to keep it a private matter.

He began his career with NBC News in its Los Angeles

bureau in 1966, later serving as its White House correspondent during the Watergate scandal before becoming anchor of "NBC Nightly News" in 1983.

Brian Williams replaced him as anchor in 2004.

Brokaw is the author of several books including "The Greatest Generation," his celebration of Americans who endured the Great Depression and World War II.

Jordan's wife gives birth to twin daughters

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Michael Jordan has more to be happy about than just the improved play of his NBA franchise.

His wife, Yvette, has given birth to the couple's identical twin daughters, Jordan's spokeswoman Estee Portnoy told The Associated Press.

Portnoy said Tuesday night Yvette Jordan, 35, gave birth to Victoria and Ysabel on Sunday in West Palm Beach, Fla.

"Yvette Jordan and the babies are doing well and the family is overjoyed at their arrival," Portnoy said.

Jordan is the owner of the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats, who are currently the eighth seed in the Eastern Conference and have a chance to make the postseason for the first time since he took over as majority owner in 2010.

Jordan, who turns 51 next Monday, married former model Yvette Prieto on April 27 of last year in Palm Beach, Fla. The reception took place at a private golf club in Jupiter, Fla., designed by Jack Nicklaus. Jordan owns a home near the course.

The couple met six years ago.

Jordan has three children - two sons, Jeffrey Michael and Marcus James, and a daughter, Jasmine—with former wife Juanita Vanoy. They divorced in 2006.

Jordan won six NBA championships with the Chicago Bulls and was a 14-time All-Star and five-time league MVP.

Duchess Kate returns to duties with black tie do

LONDON (AP)—Duchess Kate returned to her public duties with a black tie fundraising dinner in aid of the National Portrait Gallery in London.

Officially known as the Duchess of Cambridge, the former Kate Middleton gave a short speech before guests including movie star Elizabeth Hurley and rocker Bryan Adams.

Kate wore a dark-colored, floor-length dress along with a diamond necklace loaned to her by her grandmother-in-law, Queen Elizabeth II.

Kate has been taking it easy on the social calendar since the birth of her son, Prince George, last year.

Woman stays quiet about breast exam to ease her family's woes

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Earlier this year, my sister "Kathy" was diagnosed with breast cancer. She underwent a double mastectomy, chemo and radiation, and will begin reconstructive surgery soon.

Because of her diagnosis she encouraged me to visit my doctor for an exam. When I did, they found a lump, which needs further testing. I have chosen not to share this with my family because my sisters and parents have been deeply affected by Kathy's diagnosis, and I don't want to cause them needless worry.

My husband is angry and he said that because Kathy is their favorite they wouldn't be concerned anyway. I thought it was insensitive and cruel to me, but more to the point, I felt he wasn't thinking about how upset my doing so might make my family. Am I wrong to feel this way?

NEEDS FURTHER TESTING

DEAR NEEDS FURTHER TESTING: Certainly not. Your husband's comment illustrates the importance of keeping one's mouth firmly shut if one can't think of something helpful or supportive to say. It almost appears that he is angry at you for the questionable test result.

I can't blame you for not wanting to upset your already stressed family at this point, but if more testing confirms that you, too, have breast cancer, I think it's important that you let them know—especially your sisters, who might want to be screened sooner than later.

I hope your husband's apparent inability to support you emotionally during this difficult time is an aberration, but if it's not, you will need to find support elsewhere.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: About 15 years ago I committed a crime against a woman I cared about. I have felt guilt and remorse about it ever since. I can't speak to her or have any contact with her.

I would like to tell her I'm sorry for what happened. I have beaten myself up over this and thought about suicide. What do I do? Please help, Abby.

SO SORRY IN ST. JOSEPH, MO.

DEAR SO SORRY: The first thing you must do is talk with a mental health professional about your suicidal thoughts. Once you have been stabilized, you should then understand that you may have been forbidden to contact your former friend because what you did was so traumatic that it could cause her to relive the incident, which could further victimize her. If you're looking for forgiveness, forgive YOURSELF and move on—but leave her out of it.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Is there some sort of etiquette regarding inquiring about someone's country of origin?

While making polite conversation with a customer in my retail shop, I noticed she had an accent and asked where she was from. She became very evasive and seemed offended that I had asked. She actually refused to answer my question.

I tried to recover from the awkward situation, but I can't help but feel I insulted her somehow. Was I wrong to ask?

FRIENDLY RETAILER IN KANSAS CITY

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■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Colbert, Collins on guest list for state dinner



Rev. Al Sharpton and Aisha McShaw arrive for a State Dinner in honor of French President François Hollande, at the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014.

Hugh Jackman will host the Tony Awards again



This June 12, 2011 file photo shows Hugh Jackman, left, and host Neil Patrick Harris performing during the 65th annual Tony Awards in New York.

It's Australian productions of "Sunset Boulevard" and "Beauty and the Beast." In London he starred as Curly in Trevor Nunn's staging of Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" He also was in the Oscar-nominated film "Les Misérables" directed by Tom Hooper.

The official eligibility cut-off date for the Tonys this year will

be April 24, meaning all shows hoping to be considered for the awards must open by that date. Nominations will be announced April 29.

Last year's telecast saw viewership jump to 7.24 million people, the show's largest audience in four years. Harris hosted for the fourth time but he'll be on Broadway this spring in "Hedwig and the Angry Inch."

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White falls to the I-Pod in Olympic stunner



**K R A S N A -
Y A P O L Y -
A N A, Russia**
(AP)—May-
be it was all
too much. Or

maybe just
one of those
bad nights. That debate will
last a long time.

Shaun White stood at the top of the Olympic halfpipe Tuesday night, hunched over, hands resting above his knees. He high-fived his coach, clapped his hands, then jumped in for a ride that would decide if all the calculated choices he had made over a winter full of injuries, distractions and angst would pay off.

One jump, 15 feet above the pipe, was perfect. The second one looked good, too.

Then, the trick they call the “Yolo”—the one a rival invented but White had turned into his own.

His snowboard skittered across the halfpipe on the landing. White finished the run with a flourish and raised his index finger, trying to woo the judges who know, as well as anyone, what he’s done for his sport.

No sale. No medal, either. He finished fourth.

The world’s best-known, most-successful and best-marketed snowboarder lost to a man they call the “I-Pod,” and now, he may never hear the end of it.

“I would definitely say that tonight was just one of those nights,” White said after falling to Iouri Podladchikov, the 25-year-old Russian-born inventor of the ‘Yolo.’ “The

tricks I learned getting ready for the competition will carry on for a couple years in this sport. It’s a bummer. I had one of those nights.”

The Japanese pair of 15-year-old Ayumu Hirano and 18-year-old Taku Hiraoka won silver and bronze, and the Americans were shut out on the halfpipe for the first time since the sport was introduced to the Olympics in 1998.

Almost unthinkable, especially since White joined the mix and won the first of his two gold medals in 2006.

He wanted to win two this year—one in halfpipe and one in the newly introduced sport of slopestyle—but ended up with none.

“In hindsight, maybe it wasn’t the best move, but he’s ambitious,” said Jake Burton, the snowboarding guru and one of White’s very first sponsors. “That’s him. You wouldn’t want to see him trade that in for anything.”

There’s more than one trendsetter in snowboarding, more than one person who likes to “progress the sport,” as they say on the halfpipe.

The effervescent Podladchikov, who now lives in and competes for Switzerland, thought up the Yolo trick first and landed it first. White watched the replay of I-Pod doing it last March in an event in Europe and immediately saw what he needed to do.

Very quickly, he did it better than Podladchikov and landed it twice in key events leading up to the Olympics. I-Pod tried it three times



Switzerland's Iouri Podladchikov, left, celebrates with Shaun White, of the United States, after Podladchikov won the gold medal in the men's snowboard halfpipe final at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park, at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

at the Winter X Games last month and fell all three times. “Practice,” he called it.

Those falls, and a hundred other reasons, are why White came into these games the heavy favorite to become only the seventh person to win three straight Olympic

golds in an individual winter event.

“I saw videos of Shaun doing it really well,” Podladchikov said. “I got bummed. I said, ‘Damn, that’s my trick and he’s doing it better than me. I guess I was doing it a little better tonight.’”

And so, the stakes were set.

The Yolo—You Only Live Once—includes a total of 1440 degrees of spin. It’s two head-over-heels flips and two 360-degree turns. Four years ago, it was unthinkable, but not anymore.

Well, maybe not so easy on this halfpipe.

It was sloppy, slushy and full of problems all week. Virtually nobody got a decent practice session in.

Thanks to a trip down the mountain from the crew that grooms the Alpine course, conditions improved. One of the supposed flaws of the pipe—too vertical on the sides—helped Podladchikov keep the speed he needed to do the Yolo.

He landed it, and even though he only threw five tricks, when most riders were trying six, the judges liked what they saw.

As did Podladchikov, who spiked his snowboard into the ground and threw his goggles into the crowd. He scored a 94.75.

“He’s incredible,” American Danny Davis, the 10th-place finisher. “That run on that halfpipe. Wow.”

White had come to Russia after a wild winter he spent trying to qualify in two events. He hurt his ankle and shoulder on the way, and changed his schedule on the fly and frequently. The biggest switch-up came when he pulled out of the Olympics’ inaugural slopestyle contest the day before qualifiers, saying he didn’t want to risk injury there for his historic quest on the halfpipe.

“I had a specific run I wanted to land and I didn’t put it down,” White said. “It’s one of the most frustrating things for me. If I land my run and I’m beaten, I’m OK with that. I didn’t get that chance tonight, and it happens.”

Riders all get two chances, and their best score counts.

On White’s first run, his attempt at the Yolo ended with a fall that left him sliding down the halfpipe on his backside. Further down the pipe, he tried to finish with another of his double-cork tricks. His board slammed and bent on the lip of the pipe, followed by an awkward and painful fall onto his rear. He was in 11th place after one round.

I-Pod’s second run put huge pressure on White. His final runs at the last two Olympics have been nothing more than stress-free victory rides.

Away he went.

On the Yolo, he tucked his hands together to generate torque, then waved one like a cowboy riding a bucking bronco. The form looked good during his three seconds in the air. The landing ended his chances, and whatever small chance he had of winning a wrong-colored medal were wiped away when his knees buckled and nearly hit the snow on the final jump.

When the fourth-place score, a 90.25, came up, he broke into a knowing smile. He gave Podladchikov a big hug and fatherly mussed his hair. He told him he was happy for him. But the champion had only himself to blame.

“He said some other teams he had met with wanted him to transition in, and he didn’t like that. He wanted to take the ball on Day One, and that told us a lot about him.”

Tanaka sounded prepared for the Yankees’ win-or-else mentality.

“I’ve heard that this place is—it could be very harsh to you at times,” he said. “Just wanted to put myself, though, in this environment and try to see where I can get to with my ability.”

Cashman is trying to lower expectations, saying Tanaka will slot in as No. 3 in the rotation behind CC Sabathia and Kuroda.

“We could be getting more than a 3. Maybe it’s a 2. Maybe it’s even a 1 at some point,” Cashman said. “I think that the adjustments are real, and as excited as we are to have and as much as we need a player of his capabilities, I want to make sure that people understand how difficult this game is over here and that there should be expectations of growing pains.”

After chartering 787, Tanaka introduced by Yanks



**N E W
Y O R K**
(AP)—The

latest high-priced addition to the New York Yankees stood at the dais in front of a large news conference, put on his pinstriped jersey with No. 19 and smiled.

“Hello. My name is Masahiro Tanaka,” he said slowly in English. “I’m very happy to be a Yankee.”

After chartering a Boeing 787 Dreamliner for his trip from Tokyo to New York, the 25-year-old right-hander with the \$155 million, seven-year contract was introduced Tuesday not in the news conference room downstairs at Yankee Stadium, but in the Legends Suite Club, where the high rollers congregate on game days.

Yankees spokesman Jason Zillo concluded the team’s latest Pacific overture drew New York’s most-attended news conference since Hideki Matsui arrived in January 2003.

Managing General Partner

Hal Steinbrenner said obtaining Tanaka was worth the economic pain of exceeding the \$189 million luxury tax threshold New York had hoped to stay under this season.

“We needed another starter, and when we do things, we try to do them right,” Steinbrenner said. “And this guy, he’s tough. He’s got tremendous ability. We all know that. And he’s going to be very exciting to watch. And he’s going to be great for the team, a great teammate. And \$189 (million) or not, we wanted a good, quality starter, and we got it.”

Tanaka charted a Japan Airlines plane, which seats about 200, for the trans-Pacific trip to New York, reportedly costing about \$200,000. There were just five passengers on the plane, including his pop star wife Mai Satoda, plus their poodle Haru. The flight, originally scheduled to depart at noon, was delayed many hours by a snowstorm.

“There wasn’t many choices of planes,” Tanaka said through a translator when asked about the big jet.

And a lengthy commercial trip could have been uncomfortable.

“I thought about my conditioning, just wanted to get here in the best condition possible,” he said.

For his first meal in New York, he ventured outside his room at the Mandarin Oriental hotel overlooking Central Park.

“I ate a sushi,” he said, “which I bought at a grocery store nearby.”

New York, which also added Brian McCann, Jacoby Ellsbury and Carlos Beltran during the offseason, figures to have a big following in Japan this year. Tanaka joins pitcher Hiroki Kuroda and outfielder Ichiro Suzuki on the roster, and reliever Yoshinori Tateyama will be at spring training with a minor league contract.

“This would make the Boss proud,” general manager

Brian Cashman said in a reference to late owner George Steinbrenner. “The Yankees obviously are about always trying to acquire the best talent and a collection of talent that can compete for a championship, but he also liked a lot of attention, and this certainly represents a lot of attention. So this is Yankee big. This is Steinbrenner big.”

Tanaka was 24-0 with a 1.27 ERA last year, leading the Rakuten Golden Eagles to the Japan Series title. That left him with a 99-35 record and a 2.30 ERA in Japan, where he had 53 complete games in 172 starts.

New York had one of the most successful Japanese players in the major leagues in Matsui, the 2009 World Series MVP. And the Yankees experienced costly flops with pitchers Hideki Irabu and Kei Igawa.

Manager Joe Girardi was behind the plate for Irabu’s debut in 1997.

“They feel a little bit more weight of representing their country than maybe players that are here on an everyday basis, because they kind of pave the way for the next guy and then the next guy,” he said.

Girardi’s advice: “Don’t feel like you have to live up to the contract.”

On a tour of the U.S. with a Japanese high school all-star team in 2006, Tanaka met Matsui when one of the young pitcher’s games was rained out. During the offseason, he spoke briefly about his pending decision with Matsui, who plans to be a guest instructor at Yankees spring training.

New York appealed to Tanaka’s desire to pitch on the biggest stage.

“This is where you need to be. A great star. The biggest franchise. The biggest brand. The biggest city,” Yankees President Randy Levine remembered saying during the team’s pitch to the player on Jan. 8 in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Durant has 36 as Thunder beat the Blazers, 98-95



PORTRLAND, Ore. (AP)—Kevin Durant said the mutual admiration between the Thunder and the Trail Blazers only goes so far.

"We respect this team and they respect us, but we don't like them and they don't like us," Durant said after Oklahoma City's hard-fought 98-95 victory over Portland on Tuesday night. "Point blank."

Durant had 36 points and 10 rebounds as the Thunder evened the series against the Blazers 2-2 in their final regular-season meeting this year.

Jeremy Lamb had 19 points, including a key 3-pointer with 1:38 left for the Western Conference-leading Thunder, who have won 14 of their last 16 games.

Nicolas Batum had 18 points for slumping Portland, which has lost five of seven but still ranks third in the conference behind San Antonio. Robin Lopez finished with 17 points and 14 rebounds for his 19th double-double of the season.

LaMarcus Aldridge, who missed a mid-range jumper in the final seconds that could have salvaged the win for Portland, was asked what he thought of Durant's comment.

"We're not trying to make friends out there," he said. "We're trying to win games."

Portland led by as many as 13 points in the first half and held a 55-45 advantage at the break, but the Thunder kept chipping away and the teams went into the fourth quarter tied at 80.

Derek Fisher hit a 3-pointer and Lamb made a layup to put the Thunder up 85-84. Portland reclaimed the lead on rookie CJ McCollum's running shot, but Durant re-tied it at 91 with a long hook.

The teams wrestled for the lead until Lamb's 3-pointer gave the Thunder a 96-95 advantage. Damian Lillard missed a 3-pointer for Portland with 45.9 seconds left.

Portland got the ball with 12.3 seconds left after officials reviewed an out-of-bounds call, but LaMarcus Aldridge's mid-range jumper with 2 seconds left was off and Reggie Jackson hit free throws for the final margin.

"We fought hard," Durant said. "We're a resilient team."

We've kept our heads up through adversity and tough times. I'm proud of our team."

Portland won two of the first three meetings between the two teams, but the Thunder won the last 105-97 in Oklahoma City last month. Durant paced the Thunder with 42 points in that one.

Aldridge was a game-time decision because of soreness, but he started and finished with 12 points and 12 rebounds. The Blazers are the only team that has started the same five players in all of their games this season.

Aldridge was disappointed with the loss - and especially his final missed shot.

"I couldn't throw a rock in a lake tonight," Aldridge said.

Portland jumped out to a quick 18-6 lead, but the Blazers were hurt late in the opening quarter when reserve forward Joel Freeland's right knee buckled underneath him and he had to be helped off the court. The extent of the injury was not immediately known, but the Blazers depend on the 6-foot-11 Brit to spell starting center Lopez.

The Thunder closed to 25-21 on Lamb's 12-foot jumper early in the second quarter. Portland held them off, but Lamb's dunk narrowed it to 34-32 and the Thunder finally pulled ahead 41-39 on Lamb's 3-pointer.

The Blazers answered with a 16-4 run to take a 55-45 lead into halftime.

The Thunder again threatened when Kendrick Perkins' jumper got them within 66-63. Serge Ibaka's jumper with 2:18 left in the third finally gave Oklahoma City a 76-75 lead, their first of the second half.

Jackson led the rally with 13 points after going 0-for-6 in the first half. The teams went into the fourth quarter tied at 80.

"It was a physical game, but I like the fact that we kept competing and didn't let anything bother us," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "We just competed, possession by possession. And that's what good teams do."

The Blazers were coming off a 2-2 road trip, including 117-110 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Saturday. Following the loss to the Thunder, they were headed to Los Angeles for a game against the Clippers on Wednesday night before



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant, right, shoots over Portland Trail Blazers center Robin Lopez during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014. AP

the All-Star break.

The Thunder were coming off a 112-100 victory over the New York Knicks, with Durant's 41 points leading the way.

Bulls 100, Hawks 85

In Chicago, Joakim Noah scored 19 points as part of a triple-double, and the Chicago Bulls beat the Atlanta Hawks.

Noah added 16 rebounds and 11 assists, and Taj Gibson had 24 points and 12 rebounds for the Bulls, who had six players score in double figures. Chicago won its fourth straight against the Hawks and sixth in a row at home versus Atlanta.

The Hawks have lost a season-high four straight overall.

Noah had his fourth career triple-double and first since Feb. 28, 2013.

Chicago (26-25) won for the third time in four games and

pulled a half-game in front of Atlanta (25-25) in the Eastern Conference.

All-star forward Paul Millsap had 15 points for the Hawks but his streak of four games with at least 10 rebounds was snapped. Lou Williams added 13 points, and Jeff Teague had 12.

Bobcats 114, Mavericks 89

In Charlotte, N.C., Al Jefferson scored 30 points, Anthony Tolliver added 22, and Charlotte earned a rare win over Dallas.

The Bobcats had lost 17 of 18 against the Mavericks, but they scored 60 points in the paint and tied a season-high with 12 3-pointers to snap Dallas' five-game winning streak.

Tolliver was 5 of 6 from 3-point range, and the Bobcats went 12 of 24 from beyond the arc.

Jefferson was 14 of 23 from the field and reached the 20-point plateau for the 14th time in 15 games.

Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki sprained his left ankle in the second quarter but he returned in the second half and finished with 16 points.

Charlotte's victory came on the night it was announced that Bobcats owner Michael Jordan's wife gave birth to the couple's identical twin daughters.

Josh McRoberts had a career-high 13 assists and nine points for the Bobcats (23-29).

Cavaliers 109, Kings 99

In Cleveland, Luol Deng scored 22 points, and Cleveland avenged a 44-point loss to Sacramento.

The Cavaliers, routed 124-80 in Sacramento on Jan. 12, took a double-figure lead early in the second quarter and were in control the remainder of the game. Cleveland has won three in a row for the second time this season.

Anthony Bennett, the No. 1 pick in the draft who has struggled most of the season, recorded career highs with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Dion Waiters added 20 points for Cleveland.

DeMarcus Cousins scored 21 points to lead the Kings, who have lost 10 of 12 and seven straight on the road.

The Cavaliers broke a three-

game losing streak against the Kings.

Isaiah Thomas scored 16 points, and Rudy Gay added 14 for the Kings.

Grizzlies 92, Wizards 89

In Memphis, Tenn., Nick Calathes and Marc Gasol scored 18 points each, and Memphis overcame a career-best 37 points from Washington's Bradley Beal to win.

Beal was unable to convert down the stretch, though, including missing a 21-footer with 12.9 seconds left that would have tied the game.

Zach Randolph split two free throws with 11.5 seconds left to give the Grizzlies a 92-89 lead. John Wall's 3-pointer with about 1 second left rattled around before popping out.

Randolph, Courtney Lee and James Johnson scored 13 apiece for Memphis, and Randolph grabbed 10 rebounds. Calathes also had six assists for the Grizzlies.

Nene had 17 points for the Wizards. Trevor Ariza and Marcin Gortat added 10 points each.

Heat 103, Suns 97

In Phoenix, LeBron James rebounded from one of his worst games of the season to score 37 points, and Miami beat Phoenix.

James, who had matched his season low with 13 points in Saturday's loss at Utah, scored 25 in the second half, 14 in the fourth quarter. He also had five steals.

Chris Bosh added 21 points, and Mario Chalmers had 13 for the Heat, who were without Dwyane Wade because of a migraine.

Gerald Green scored 21 of his 26 points in the second half for Phoenix. Goran Dragic and Channing Frye had 15 apiece.

The Suns lost to Miami for the eighth time in a row.

Jazz 96, Lakers 79

In Los Angeles, reserve Alec Burks scored 13 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and the Utah Jazz sent the injury-riddled Los Angeles Lakers to a franchise record-tying sixth straight home loss.

Gordon Hayward scored 15 points and reserve Jeremy Evans had 14 for Utah, which enjoyed a 55-40 rebounding edge. Derrick Favors had 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Chris Kaman had 25 points and 14 boards for the Lakers, who have dropped nine of 11 overall and 21 of 26 since Dec. 21. The loss to Utah put Los Angeles in 14th place in the Western Conference, a half-game behind the Jazz and a game ahead of last-place Sacramento.

Undermined all season by a run of injuries, the Lakers likely will miss the postseason for only the fifth time since the franchise relocated from Minneapolis to Los Angeles in 1960-61.

Jordan's wife gives birth to twin daughters

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Michael Jordan has more to be happy about than just the improved play of his NBA franchise.

His wife, Yvette, has given birth to the couple's identical twin daughters, Jordan's spokeswoman Estee Portnoy told The Associated Press.

Portnoy said Tuesday night Yvette Jordan, 35, gave birth

to Victoria and Ysabel on Sunday in West Palm Beach, Fla.

"Yvette Jordan and the babies are doing well and the family is overjoyed at their arrival," Portnoy said.

Jordan is the owner of the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats, who are currently the eighth seed in the Eastern Conference and have a chance to make the postseason for the

first time since he took over as majority owner in 2010.

Jordan, who turns 51 next Monday, married former model Yvette Prieto on April 27 of last year in Palm Beach, Fla. The reception took place at a private golf club in Jupiter, Fla., designed by Jack Nicklaus.

Jordan owns a home near the course.

The couple met six years ago.

Jordan has three children—two sons, Jeffrey Michael and Marcus James, and a daughter, Jasmine—with former wife Juanita Vanoy. They divorced in 2006.

Jordan won six NBA championships with the Chicago Bulls and was a 14-time All-Star and five-time league MVP.

Revised schedule for Micro Games out

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Organizers of the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei have released a revised schedule for the quadrennial competition.

From the original schedule of July 19 to 29, the Games will now take place from July 20 to 30 with the opening ceremony set for July 20 at the Pohnpei

(PNI) track and field oval at 5pm. The technical committee meeting of the majority of the 14 events under the Micro Games calendar will also take place on July 21, while competitions will kick off on July 21 for most of the sports.

Athletics will run from July 21 to July 24, while baseball, fast-pitch softball, basketball, and indoor volleyball will be held from

July 21 to 30. Baseball will be played at Daini Field and softball is at the Spanish Wall Ballfield, while basketball and indoor volleyball are set at the COM-FSM National Gymnasium and PNI Gymnasium, respectively. Tennis will also run 10 days at the PNI Tennis Courts.

Football is scheduled for July 25 to 30 at the COM-FSM National Campus; Micronesian

All-Around are slated for July 26 and 28 at Spanish Wall Park; spearfishing on July 21 and 22 at Mangrove Bay Marina; swimming on July 21 to 24 at PNI Swimming Pool; table tennis on July 26 and July 28 to 30 at COM-FSM National Gymnasium; canoe racing on July 23 to 25 at the Mangrove Bay Marina; weightlift-

ing on July 24 and 25 at the COM-FSM National Gymnasium; and wrestling on July 21 to 23 at the COM-FSM National Gymnasium.

Delegates urged to secure flights

Of the 14 sports, the CNMI is only competing in nine. Athletics, baseball, basketball, tennis, spearfishing, canoe, tennis, volleyball, and wrestling beat the deadline for submission of entries by numbers last month, bringing the CNMI's delegation to Pohnpei to 173 (including officials).

After confirming their par-

ticipation to the Micro Games, Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White reminded the various local sports federations to secure airline seats as early as possible.

White said United Airlines' flight to Pohnpei can only accommodate 150 passengers and seats have started to run out with Guam and Palau making early reservations. As for the CNMI side, only baseball has communicated with United Airlines official to inquire about flights to Pohnpei. United Airlines fly to Pohnpei four times a week or every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.

QQ caging meeting today

Organizers of the 2013 QQ Rent A Car Basketball League is calling all representatives of interested teams to attend a meeting today at 6:30pm at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Su-

su. have expressed an interest in joining the competition. Garcia said they are looking to have as much as 10 teams. Entry fee is \$500.

Cash prizes await the Top 2 finishers in the league with the champion taking home \$1,000 and the runner-up getting \$500.

For more information, contact Garcia at 989-6386 or via email at bfgarcia2355@yahoo.com. (PR)



Team CNMI joins the opening parade of the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

ROSELYN MONROYO

KAGMAN

From Page 28

goals in the remaining 10 minutes of play with Cepeda drilling a triple and Johnson connecting on a running jumper.

Past the halfway mark of the fourth canto, both teams pulled out most of their starters and it

was just time before Kagman secured its third victory in five games.

Michael Muna paced the Ayuyus with his 12 points, while Roke Tenorio and Isaiyah Retan contributed 10 and 8, respectively. Cepeda had a game-high 15 points for SIS, which got 10 from Johnson. Only four

players scored for SIS with Allen Cepeda adding 6 and Yong Kwang Kim logging 2, while besides their Top 3 scorers, the Ayuyus also drew points from five others.

Meanwhile, official scores of last Monday's triple-header were unavailable, but MHS won two matches, prevailing

in the freshmen division and varsity. Southern stunned MHS in the junior varsity division to break into the win column after a 0-4 start. In varsity division, the Dolphins are still unbeaten in six games, while the Rays dropped to an even 3-3 mark. The Dolphins are also flawless in four games in the freshmen

division, while Southern has a 0-3 slate.

KHS 52 – Muna 14, Tenorio 10, Retan 8, Lampkin 4, Aaron 4, Jones 4, Torres 2, Castro 2.

SIS 33 – C. Cepeda 15, Johnson 10, A. Cepeda 6, Y. Kim 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-7, 26-17, 40-28, 52-33.

MIXED

From Page 28

and Erika Tuttle, 6-3, 6-4, while Daniel Park and Mimi Sakano ousted Negahr Rastguy and Riko Ojima, 7-5, 7-5. Kim and Elliot cruised past Kazumi Imai and Daniel Kang, 6-1, 6-1, while Seiya Eda and Schorr also eased past Rintaro Miyawaki and W.C. Lee, 6-1, 6-2.

Lopez and Gregoire labored a 4-6, 7-6, 10-8 victory over

Marivic Rosario and Sean Lee for a Round of 16 date with Amami Sakano and Conatsu Kaga, who took only two sets to down Christian Miller and Tiara Imai, 6-4, 6-2, in the top half of the draw.

In the lower half, the second-ranked Loken and Steven Goodwin dominated Cleofe Santos and A.J. Hudkins last Saturday, 6-1, 6-0. Earlier last Saturday, Santos and Hudkins beat Daniel Park and Bob Kim,

6-4, 6-3.

Steven Goodwin and Loken are paired against Luther Lizama and Marielle Lopez in the next round, as the latter pair also won last weekend against Thea Minor and Shaira Valle, 6-0, 6-2. Completing the Round of 16 qualifiers in the bottom half of the draw were Ami Tsukagoshi and Primo Po, Gary Ramsey and Tania Tan, Jeff Race and Grace Choi, Steven Beyer and Coume Kagam,

Vincent Tudela and Gang Min Kim, and Tim Goodwin and Malika Miyawaki.

Malika Miyawaki and Tim Goodwin marched into the next round after topping Alex Martin and Hana Ojima, 6-1, 6-2, and will be battling Tudela and Kim this weekend. Tudela and Kim gained a spot to the next round after defeating Lydia Tan and Maria Gregoire, 6-4, 4-6, 10-7.

Beyer and Kaga and Race

and Choi set their Round of 16 duel after bagging similar straight set wins over Angelo Jones and Jireh Warren, 6-3, 6-3, and siblings Alina and Julia Ishikawa, 6-4, 6-1, respectively. Tania Tan and Gary Ramsey also took the short route to victory against Michael Ren and Jeffrey Seo, 6-2, 6-4, for a Round of 16 showdown against Po and Tsukagoshi, who booted out Maaya Sato and Mihoko Tuttle, 6-4, 4-6, 11-9.

FALCONS

From Page 28

via the 10-run mercy rule. The Falcons are now in a tie for second to fourth place with the Jets and the Comets, as they have identical 2-2 records. The JPO Enforcers are in the lead with their 4-0 mark, while the Red Sox and Fielders are in the cellar with their similar 1-4 slates.

Shortstop Benen Iguel led the Falcons against the Jets, as he went 3-for-4 at bat, contributing two runs and three RBIs. His RBI single at the top of the first inning put the Falcons on the board and his team managed to extend the lead to five after two innings. The Falcons got four more runs in the second

inning off Kekuni Kainoa's RBI single, two errors at leftfield, and a stolen dish.

The Jets also nailed a run off a Falcons' miscue at the bottom third and added one more off Jerome Reyes' RBI single to stay in the game, 2-5. However, the Falcons got back on defense in the last four innings and shut down the Jets anew, while stretching their advantage with a six-run top of the fourth. Iguel had a two-run single in the fourth inning and also reached home off an Ace Evangelista single, while the three others runs were courtesy of passed balls.

Red Sox 10, Comets 8
In the first Junior League game

last Sunday, the Red Sox ended their three-game losing skid after slipping past the Comets.

A seven-run bottom of the sixth inning helped the defending champions Red Sox notch their first win in four matches and hand the Comets their second defeat.

Before the rally, the Red Sox faced a 3-8 deficit after five and a half innings. They got three runs in the first inning and were without a run in the next four innings, while the Comets scored in five of the first six innings to take the lead.

The Red Sox then grabbed the driver's seat after tallying four runs off RBI walks, two off an error at second base and

left field, and an RBI single from Ramon Agulto. The Red Sox went on to complete the come-from-behind win after stranding two runs at the top of the last inning, as closer Delin Resaura struck out Justin Indalecio for the last out.

Enforcers 6, Fielders 3

The JPO Enforcers remained undefeated after topping the Fielders.

The Enforcers scored only in the second inning, but their six runs were enough to give the team cushion against the Fielders. Ian Muna hit a two-run double in the second and also reached home plate off an error from Fielders shortstop Jaden Tenorio. The Enforcers

turned the Fielders' two more errors into run, while Jordan Kosam contributed one run off Garnet Martin's single for their 6-0 lead.

The division leader kept the advantage, as the Fielders only scored in two of the remaining five innings. The Fielders ended the drought in the third inning off Don Ada's RBI single, but went scoreless anew in the next two innings before gaining two earned runs in the sixth. The Fielders' last chance to extend the game then quickly ended when the first two batters sat back to the bench off 6-3 putout plays and third batter Sho Taguchi was struck out by relief pitcher Virgil Secharmidal.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	27	24	.529	–
Brooklyn	23	26	.469	3
New York	20	31	.392	7
Boston	19	34	.358	9
Philadelphia	15	38	.283	13

Southeast Division

Miami	36	14	.720	–
Atlanta	25	25	.500	11
Washington	25	26	.490	11½
Charlotte	23	29	.442	14
Orlando	16	37	.302	21½

Central Division

Indiana	40	11	.784	–
Chicago	26	25	.510	14
Detroit	22	29	.431	18
Cleveland	19	33	.365	21½
Milwaukee	9	42	.176	31

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	37	15	.712	–
Houston	35	17	.673	2
Dallas	31	22	.585	6½
Memphis	28	23	.549	8½
New Orleans	22	29	.431	14½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	42	12	.778	–
Portland	36	16	.692	5
Denver	24	26	.480	16
Minnesota	24	28	.462	17
Utah	18	33	.353	22½

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	36	18	.667	–
Golden State	31	21	.596	4

2014 SSC Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim Part 2

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Rinto Takahashi, left, and David Boyer get out of the water during last Saturday's 2014 SSC Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim at Pacific Islands Club.



Victoria Chentsova leads a small group of swimmers going for the second lap of the course.



A swimmer stops for a while to check her time before heading to another lap of the course.



R.J. Pierce takes time to move out of the water.



Two young Saipan Swim Club swimmers make their way out of the water.



Kaoru Takahashi smiles as she nears completion of the 2.4-kilometer race.



Kanai Quinn runs to shore.



Ayumi Kaga catches her breath after doing three laps of the course.



Kento Akimaru is on his way to a first place finish in the five-loop race.



Joshua Berger watches wife Mamiko near the end of the three-lap race.



White falls to the
I-Pod in Olympic
stunner
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Durant has 36 as
Thunder beat the
Blazers, 98-95
PAGE 25

28 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kagman snaps SIS streak in JV caging



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kagman High School halted Saipan International School's two-game winning run after coasting to a 52-33 victory in their junior varsity game in the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Ayuyus now have a 3-2 record for second spot in the five-team field behind division leader MHS (4-1). The SIS Geckos fell from third to fourth place with their 2-3 slate, while Eucon International School (2-2) and Saipan Southern High School (1-4) complete the field.

Kagman wrapped up the match with a 19-point lead, as it consistently scored in double figures in the last three quarters after a so-so start. The Ayuyus led by only a hair at the end of the first period, 8-7, before working harder on offense in the ensuing quarters to widen



the gap and deny the Geckos their third straight victory.

Roke Tenorio, who had only one basket in the opening canto, nailed 8 points in the second frame, while five of his teammates contributed at least one field goal apiece, giving Kagman a 26-17 halftime lead.

SIS avoided falling behind by twin digits in the first half with Cristopher Cepeda and Andrew Johnson teaming up for 10 points in the second quarter. However, the gap widened in the third as both Johnson and Cepeda were held to one field goal apiece, while the Ayuyus drew at least 4 points apiece from three players for their 12-point advantage, 40-28.

The lead then ballooned to as high as 20 points midway in the fourth, as the Geckos took a while before getting their first basket in the final canto. SIS went on to hit only two field

See KAGMAN on Page 26

Mixed-up doubles down to 16 pairs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 38-pair field in the mixed-up doubles event of 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament was cut down to 16 at the completion of Week 1 matches at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Leading the Round of 16 qualifiers were the Top 2 ranked tandems of Luke Beling and Joshua Abragan and Peter Loken and Steven Goodwin.

Beling and Abragan were at the top half of the draw and advanced to the next round after sweeping Ken Imaya and Jamin Elliot last Sunday, 6-0, 6-2. The No. 1 seeded pair's foes in the Round of 16 are Theecel Minor and Haruya Eda, who needed three sets to eliminate Tommy Choi and Ellie Epley, 6-2, 4-6, 10-2.

Other second-round pairings in the upper bracket are Moris Villanueva and Eugene Park versus Chris Park and Mimi Sakano; Seiya Eda and Robbie Schorr against Tony Kim and Jeff Elliot; and Mikayla Lopez and Anthony Gregoire versus Amami Sakano and Conatsu Kaga.

Villanueva and Eugene Park survived the opening round after defeating Father Ryan Jimenez

See MIXED on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ken Song makes a return near the net, while partner Jim Tuttle stays back for the next play during their mixed-up doubles game against sister Alina and Julia Ishikawa in the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Falcons soar past Jets

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Talaabwogh Falcons bagged their second win after bringing down the Jets, 12-2, in their Junior League game in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Falcons' defense allowed the Jets to score only in the second inning to secure the early victory

See FALCONS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Falcons second baseman throws to first base during their Senior League game against the Jets last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.